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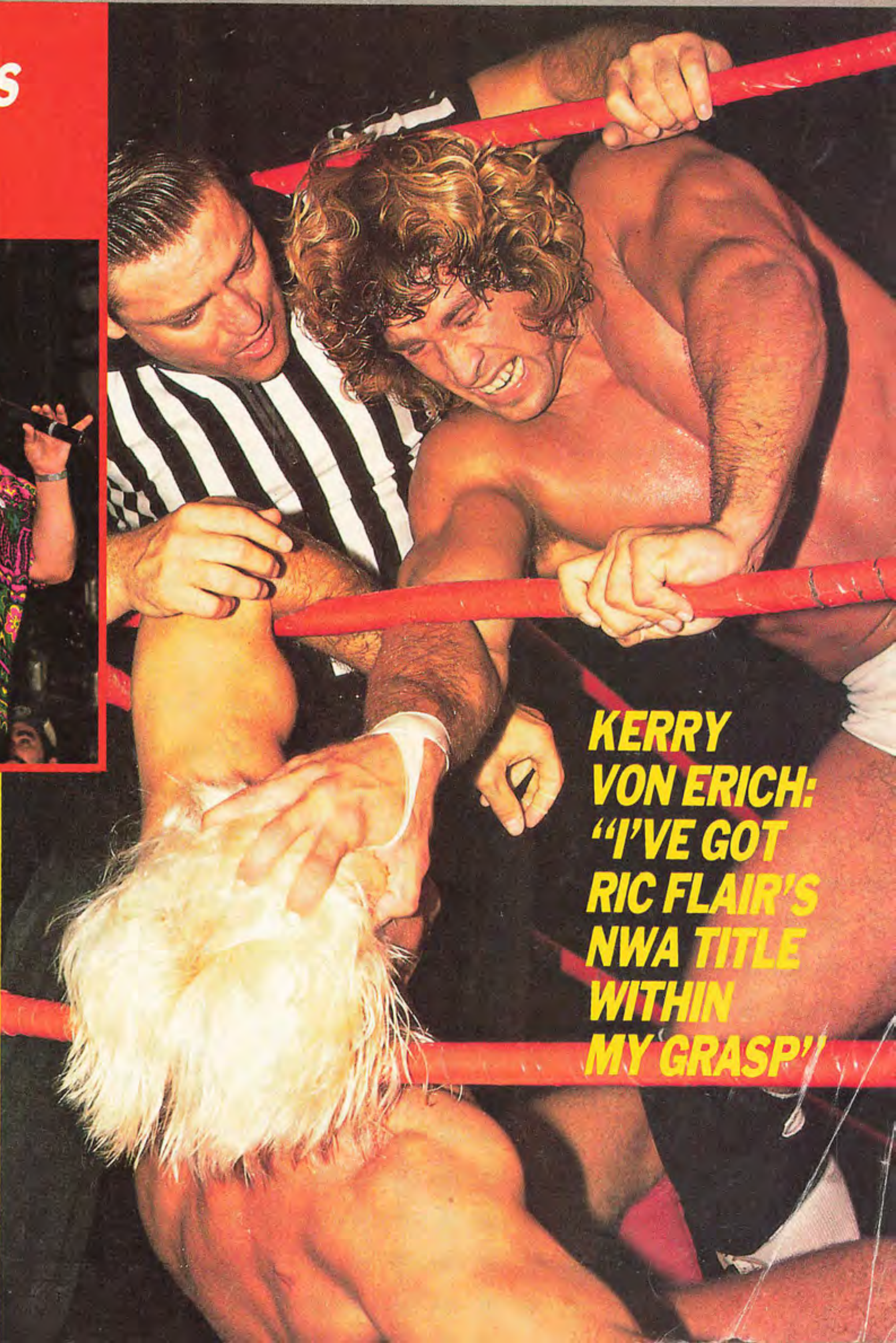

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SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

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GAIN WEIGHT! GAIN WOMEN!

If you think that's just a catchy slogan, we hope you will do yourself a favor. Count how many skinny men you see in movies, or on TV or anywhere . . . with pretty women. Notice whom they pick for clothing models. See the announcers, the M.C.'s, the newsmen. How many men in the public eye, in politics, in leadership roles in business are underweight? Not even astronauts are skinny guys. If you want to experience a change in your attitude, your business progress, your lifestyle, see what 5, 10, 15 pounds can do for you. See how it adds to your personal esteem, your confidence and, best of all, your well-being. Your day will come . . . and thank your lucky stars, it's within sight with* ShapeUp *working for you.

LOOK BETTER AND FEEL BETTER WHILE YOU GAIN

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Your money back without any strings whatsoever. Try *ShapeUp* for 30 days. It does as we say or you get a full refund.

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Address ______________________________

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☐ Send me the 30-Tablets size for $7.95

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The Wrestler

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Recently, I came across a fairly new way to make big bux, but after a thorough study I discarded it because it required too much investment of time, money and personal effort. But my study did serve as inspiration to develop yet another fantastic and unusual wallet-fattener — **something that until now has never been done** — yet fully complies with the tough set of standards I'm noted for demanding of *any* potential wealth-producing concept:

- Must be able to be started with **minimum investment**
- Must be possible to **start at home** and not interfere with family life.
- Must be able to be started and **run initially by one man or woman**
- Must require only a **few hours of spare time per week**
- Must have realistic annual profit potential of **$40,000 or more**

Vell, this one goes way beyond my usual rigorous test. Get this: This extra-ordinary money-maker® allows you to:

- Start at once — **within 30 seconds** of studying my report
- Invest **not a single cent**
- Accomplish everything **without leaving your home** — heck, you can do it from your favorite easy chair whilst eating pizza or petting the dog (or vicey versey!)
- Have a potential **net profit** (not gross ... **net!**) of $100,000.00 by the end of 90 days — tops. And that's **cash**, not theoretical or paper profits.

Naturally, you're wondering what all this is — but I'm not going to tell you here. No, it's going to cost you ten smackers to find out. But I will tell you what it *isn't* so you'll not be off on some wild goose chase:

★ No sex or off-color stuff
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★ No gambling, betting or wagering
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★ No catalogs, mailing lists, postage, etc.
★ No equipment to buy or rent
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★ Not anything you have ever seen advertised anywhere

For the past two decades Du Vall has captured the imagination of men and women the world over by providing solid, unique direction for their quest for financial freedom. His firm is headquartered in Michigan with international marketing offices in Hong Kong (known as DAX International, John W. Lane, President). In addition to producing some three dozen publications on money-making/self-improvement themes, DuVall is also the creator of the popular Derek Dax adventure/mystery/romance series and the author of the political intrigue novel, "The Big Dream" (published by Lyle Stuart, Inc., New York). Unlike most, he has never had to resort to outlandish money-back guarantees to attract only the finest DAX-DOERS worldwide and no such policy is expressed or implied.

His writings have been used in numerous style and content workshops and accredited courses at such institutions as California State University, UCLA, Fordham, University of Illinois and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

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Finally, let me make this clear: Once you have my report, **that is all you need to get going!** I have nothing else to sell you for this deal. Your purchase of this extraordinary report is NOT a "foot in the door" to get you to buy some extra or expensive "course" or whatever ... this is all you need from me!

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We have over 10,000 'tasty testimonials' from housewives, doctors, lawyers, layed-off factory workers—all sorts of good people. These excerpts sum up their feelings:

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". . . man in economically depressed area left $35,000 secure job to put this method to work . . . made $120,000. First man I've ever met who really made money on idea purchased through mail." David Roman, Editor, ROMAN REPORTS, Ohio

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A few months back in our DAX MONEY-MAKER® CONFIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER, we reported on another business that can easily net $1,000 a week for life. It's a bit more involved and does require getting out and about, but our readers were so delighted with it that I'm including it as an extra **free bonus** when you order our new special DAX report, "$100,000 in 90 Days."

2. Do the only sensible thing. Send me the ten bux and get started on wearing in that path to the bank.

P.S. One more thing (say, this Du Vall is a windy so and so, isn't he!). There are lots of people right now in bad financial straits. I hope you're not one of them, but if you are, having read this ad you now have absolutely no excuse for being broke, because as the saying goes, "This is it!" This could truly be the once-and-for-all solution to any money miseries you have. I guess you'll have to take my word for it until you receive these fabulous reports — but if it eases your mind any, over 1,000,000 men and women worldwide have been, over the years **repeat buyers** of my books, courses, reports, cassette tape programs and newsletters. There must be a reason . . .

— Dean F. V. Du Vall

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YOUR LETTERS

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Gordon Solie was off the air briefly after the WWF took control of *World Championship Wrestling* on WTBS, but now he, Ole Anderson, and the Georgia area wrestlers can be seen on WTBS on Saturdays at 9 a.m.

WWF TV: MIXED REVIEWS

I just picked up the November 1984 issue of *The Wrestler* and read Bill Apter's "What's Happening" section and found out that the WWF bumped NWA Georgia wrestling off Ted Turner's WTBS cable SuperStation, and Southwest Championship Wrestling off the USA Cable newtork.

I don't get cable-TV, but as far as I know, Vince McMahon is trying to make a buck in expanding his WWF to cover all of America, and to oversaturate the satellite cable-TV spacewaves. It looks like McMahon is trying to put the NWA and AWA out of business, plain and simple!

Speaking of the WWF superstars, I do not have anything against them, but McMahon is overexposing his TV programs way too much in an effort to create a nationwide pro wrestling monopoly for himself. And as for those televised matches, he'd be better off taping the bouts in a small studio instead of a big sports arena.

Wrestling fans everywhere, including those disgruntled WWF fans, should force WTBS management to put Gordon Solie and the Georgia wrestling gang back on in their old time spot, as well as SCW from Texas back on the USA network. Hopefully, the fans will win the war against WWF overexposure on television. Otherwise, the AWA and NWA will fold, and the sport of professional wrestling as we all know it will die a slow and agonizing death.

JAMES M. BEER
Houlton, WI

I don't see why everyone is coming down so hard on the WWF. Right now, the WWF has the best wrestlers in the world, and more television time than anyone else in which to show

(Continued on page 48)

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David Fairbrother—Dave's Locksmith Service Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209

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City__________________

State____________ **Zip**______

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

Two major area tag team titles have changed hands since our last issue: the National and Mid-Southern tag team championships.

The National belts changed ownership when the team of **Rip Rogers** and **Ted Oates**, also known as **The Hollywood Blonds**, defeated

Ted Oates (left) and Rip Rogers, posing with adviser Brenda Britton, are the new National tag team champions.

Ronnie Garvin and **Jerry Oates** on September 20 in Albany, Georgia.

"The match was pretty rough on Jerry," noted Garvin, who is also involved in a campaign against National heavyweight champion **Ted DiBiase**. "Having to wrestle your own brother for a title isn't easy, and the fact that Ted and Jerry don't get along too well these days—well, that doesn't make it any easier."

Garvin notes that he and Oates *will* be seeking rematches for the National tag team belts.

The team of **Tommy Rich** and **Dutch Mantel** won the Mid-Southern tag team belts from **Phil Hickerson** and **The Mid-Southern Spoiler** on September 15 in Memphis, Tennesee.

"Let me tell you, Tommy and I trained for a long time for that match with Hickerson and Spoiler," Mantel told *The Wrestler*. "I have to give my partner a lot of credit. He trained like a demon, and at the same time he was involved in some pretty heavy matches with **Eddie Gilbert**. He didn't have to handle a schedule of singles matches against Eddie and a schedule of tag team training with me, but he did. I think the fans ought to know and understand the kind of work Tommy put into winning this title. I don't think there are many other wrestlers around who could have done the same thing."

Bobby Jaggers, fresh from a successful tour of Africa, is heading for the Pacific Northwest area. **Armando Guerrero**, brother of U.S. heavyweight tag team champions **Hector** and **Chavo Guerrero**, is also currently wrestling in the PNW . . . **Master G**, a newcomer to the Mid-South area, is feuding with **Hacksaw Reed**, who claims to have driven **Junkyard Dog** out of the area. You probably already know Master G as **George Wells** . . . **Blackjack Mulligan** was to be out of wrestling for a few weeks following an

Former pro football player George "Master G" Wells is feuding with another former gridiron star, Butch Reed.

injury in San Antonio, Texas, from **Kevin Sullivan's** spike, an injury that was aggravated several days later by **Wahoo McDaniel** in a match in the Mid-Atlantic area.

Kevin Sullivan may now have

(Continued on page 63)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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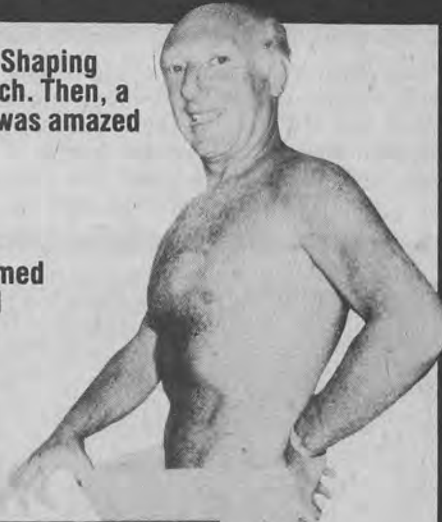

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“At my age it's much harder to get back in shape . . . but with the help of Ike Berger's Speed Shaping Program, I trimmed inches of Lazy fat off my mid-section and thighs. Beside looking years younger, I feel great. I'm sure all women will love the easy Speed Shaping Program!” *Mrs. SS, NY*

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Olympic Champion originally developed the Speed Shaping Program for his wife!

World famous Olympic Gold Medal Winner, Ike Berger, learned early the professional secrets of developing and maintaining a trim, slim body shape. However, his wife hated strenuous exercise and begged him to develop a simple program she could use without exhausting herself. A sensible method she could use a few minutes a day in the privacy of their home to firm and tone up her mid-section and thighs. As a result, Ike Berger developed the Speed Shaping Program.

What is the Speed Shaping Program?

You've probably heard about the Isotonic and Isometric principle of body dynamics. Each method has its own believers and supporters. I used BOTH methods in my daily training. Finally, I developed a special exercise unit that employed BOTH methods AT THE SAME TIME in one device. The effect was simply amazing. I was able to keep in trim, slim shape in only a fraction of the time I previously needed.

Now you too can begin using the Speed Shaping Program and see amazing results almost immediately as you begin to develop a rock-hard lean stomach in just a few minutes a day. In addition to reshaping and toning your body, a FREE accompanying easy to follow diet plan will help speed up weight loss, if weight loss is one of your objectives.

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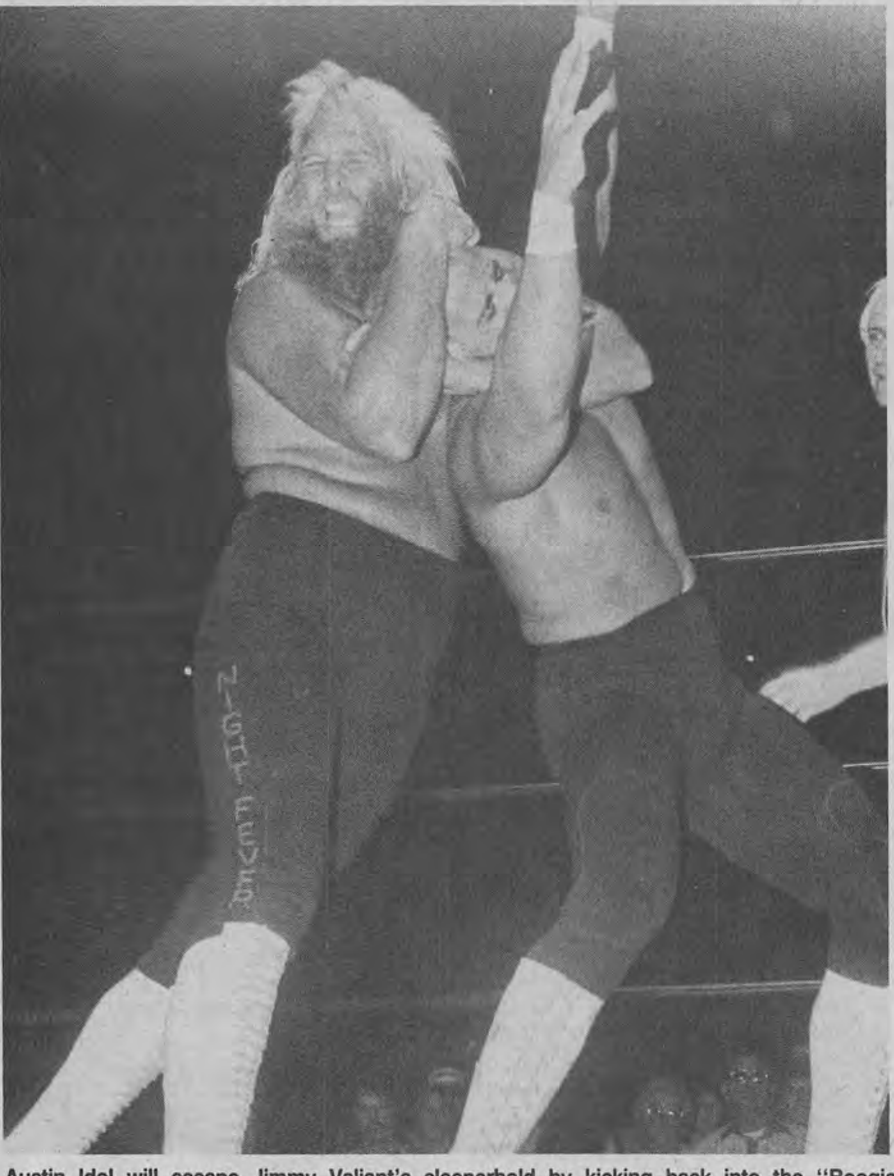

Austin Idol will escape Jimmy Valiant's sleeperhold by kicking back into the "Boogie Woogie Man's" groin. The Atlanta fans were very disappointed in Idol's return to rulebreaking.

Atlanta, Georgia *(Correspondent*—Lenis Sargeant): A confused crowd at The Omni watched Jimmy 'Boogie Woogie Man" Valiant defeat "The Universal Heartthrob," Austin Idol.

More important, however, was that the fans saw a different Austin Idol than they were accustomed to, and were not quite sure about whom to cheer for. Their confusion, combined with a surprise pin, raised questions about Idol's standing as a fan favorite in Atlanta.

The two men were cautious at the beginning of the match. They repeatedly locked up collar and elbow, and broke cleanly upon reaching the ropes.

Idol shocked the crowd when he picked the ring announcer's microphone off a ringside table and said, "You're not even in the same class as me, Valiant. It's like comparing a Volkswagen to a Rolls Royce."

After hearing this, Valiant picked up referee Scrappy McGowan and placed him on the top turnbuckle. He and Idol locked up again and made their way into a corner. Idol backed off cleanly, but then rushed in to knee Valiant. Valiant sidestepped his opponent, however, and Idol sailed over the buckle and onto the arena floor.

Valiant followed Idol and chased him around the ring. Once back in the ring, however, Idol gained the upper hand with illegal tactics. Idol threw Valiant into the ropes, but Valiant surprised his opponent by wrapping him in the sleeperhold. Idol became groggy but kicked Valiant in the groin to break the hold.

Idol kicked and spit on Valiant. He then began a series of bodybuilding poses, but after his display of illegal tactics, there were very few fans left to cheer his remarkable physique.

Idol whipped Valiant into the

(Continued on page 56)

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YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion

Q: "I have something to say to Wahoo McDaniel: Guess what, old Indian, your career is over. You can't even walk into the ring without breaking a sweat. Ten years ago you might have had a chance to win a world title, but you've been riding on your name ever since. What do you think of that?"—Kevin Johnson, Terryville, NY

A: "I want to see all these fans who have been criticizing wrestlers for all these years get in the ring and try to do what I do," McDaniel said. "Have you ever been in the ring, Kevin Johnson? Have you ever risked your life for a paycheck? No, you haven't. So why don't you just stop passing judgment on professional wrestling and wrestlers. You're right when you said 10 years ago I had a chance to win a world title. The difference is that now I will *definitely* win Ric Flair's World title. I'm your next champion, so get used to it."

***

Q: "My question is for Gary Hart: You've come back to the World Class area to manage Chris Adams. Will you also be bringing The Great Kabuki back here to Texas? And will Chris be wrestling your former protege Gino Hernandez?"—Gary Mattern, Irving, TX

A: "Chris Adams is going to receive my complete and undivided attention," Hart said. "Kabuki is currently represented by a management team based in Japan and is touring the Far East. And as far as Gino Hernandez goes, if he stands in the way of Chris and a shot at Ric Flair's World title, they'll wrestle. Nothing will stop Gary Hart and Chris Adams from the ultimate goal, the championship of the world."

***

Q: For Ronnie Garvin: "Don't you think you've been doing too much lately? You're the reigning National television champion, and you've been defending that title against rough men like Crusher Blackwell, 666, and Jake Roberts. You're also one-half of the the National tag team champions. Now you've stolen Ted DiBiase's National heavyweight title belt and Ted is fighting to get it back. Don't you think that doing all this at once could hurt your career? I think it is too much for even you to handle."—Stephen Caruso, Columbia, MD

Gary Hart teaches Chris Adams things about wrestling that he feels will make him a world champion. Hart has assured Chris that he will receive his undivided attention as a manager.

A: "I don't have anything else to do," Garvin said. "I think I've been doing justice to the TV title, and Ted Oates and I have been managing to hold on to the tag team belts. As far as DiBiase goes, he deserves everything he's getting, trust me. Ted DiBiase has been doing a lot of bad things to a lot of people for a long time, and if I can even give him a little idea of what brand of

(Continued on page 58)

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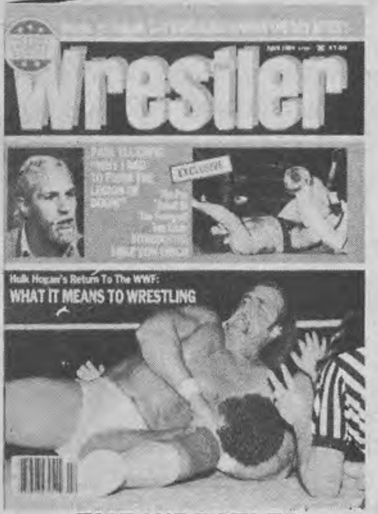
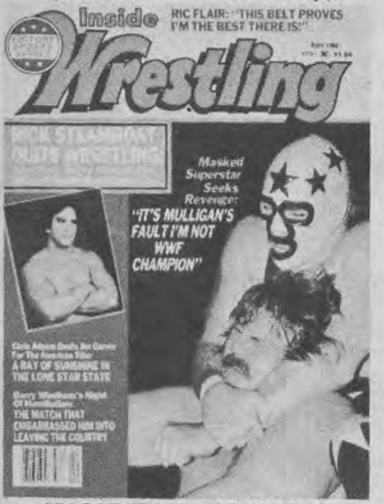


THE WRESTLER
(Published Monthly)



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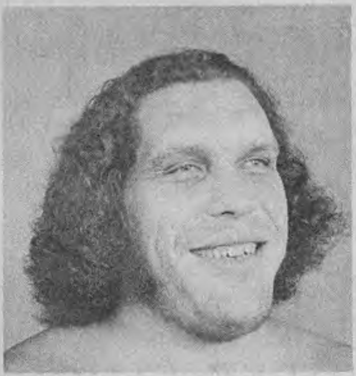
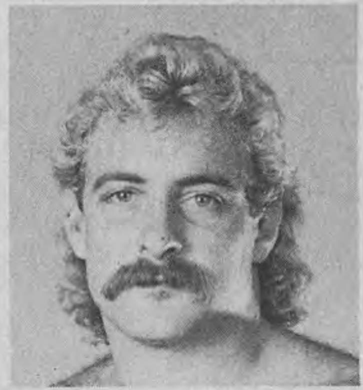
Thumbs Up

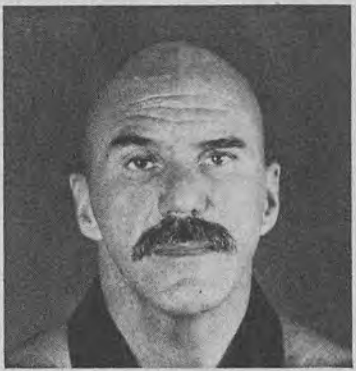
Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



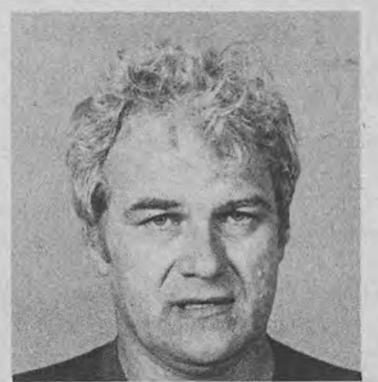
Thumbs Up to Andre the Giant: The "Eighth Wonder of the World" has stepped in to take care of Roddy Piper, who is quickly becoming the most hated man in the history of the WWF. In arenas across the country, Andre has beaten Piper in match after match, proving that "Rowdy" Roddy is not the giant killer he claimed to be. Congratulations on your victories, Andre, and we're sure that fan favorites in the WWF are grateful for your efforts.



Thumbs Up to Magnum T.A.: It has been six months since T.A. defeated Mr. Wrestling II for the North American championship. Since then, T.A. has turned back every challenge thrown at him. Hacksaw Butch Reed, Ernie Ladd, Hercules Hernandez, Buddy Landell, Steve "Dr. Death" Williams, and Bobby Eaton, among others, have failed to take away T.A.'s title belt. T.A. should be praised for his perseverance and his dedication to training. He is a credit to his championship.



Thumbs Up to Superstar Graham: Graham has come out against Kevin Sullivan's abuse of his two valets, Fallen Angel and The Lock. On a recent Florida wrestling telecast the two wrestlers began to argue about Sullivan's treatment of The Lock, resulting in a fight between the two. Sullivan got the best of Graham with help from Sir Oliver Humperdink, but one can be sure that Graham will be back to exact revenge on the Satan-worshipping Sullivan.



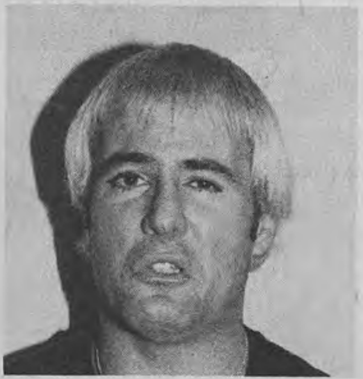
Thumbs Up to J.J. Dillon: The self-proclaimed "manager of champions" now has a legitimate claim to that title. Almost immediately upon showing up in the Mid-Atlantic region with Ron Bass and Black Bart, the two wrestlers won a tournament to crown new Mid-Atlantic tag team champions. Soon thereafter, Bass defeated Angelo Mosca Jr. to win the Mid-Atlantic singles title. You might not agree with the avenues Dillon has taken to these titles, but you can't argue with success. Dillon has proven he's one of the best in the business.

Thumbs Down

Thumbs Down to Gino Hernandez: Hernandez has taken credit, and a championship belt, for a match that he did not actually win. During a bout against Mike Von Erich for the World Class American title, Hernandez received help from a huge woman clad in leather who pounded Von Erich from behind, setting up an easy pinfall for Hernandez. Gino later introduced the woman as Nicola Roberts, and announced that she is his bodyguard. Hernandez is once again wearing a championship belt he did not earn, and he should be damned for taking advantage of this illegal activity.

Thumbs Down to Eddie Gilbert: This magazine rarely designates a man a "Thumbs Down" mention two months in a row, but the staff has decided to make an exception for Gilbert. Mid-Southern fans continue to be horrified at Gilbert's new wrestling philosophy. He has held on to the Mid-Southern International championship by using the most blatantly illegal tactics those fans have seen since the Jerry Lawler-Bill Dundee wars of the early 1980s. Gilbert has gone too far, so far in fact that many are doubtful that he will ever return to his rule-abiding ways.

Thumbs Down to Lord Alfred Hays: On a recent broadcast of WWF wrestling, Hays, serving as a color commentator, displayed partiality during the Roddy Piper-Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka main event. Snuka sat on Piper's chest and pounded Roddy with closed fists. As the referee tried to pull Snuka off, Hays said, "Don't stop it, ref. Let Jimmy Go!" Hays acted irresponsibly in taking sides while he was annoucing the match. Such behavior is unbecoming of a journalist.



Thumbs Down to Austin Idol: "The Universal Heartthrob" has reverted back to the rulebreaking stance he took at the beginning of his career. He was recently matched against Jimmy "Boogie Woogie Man" Valiant in a match at Atlanta's Omni. Instead of the scientific encounter the fans expected, Idol used an arsenal of illegal maneuvers to gain an advantage over Valiant. At the end, however, Valiant gained the victory because Idol was too busy flexing his muscles for the women in the audience to pay attention to the match. Idol's change in philosophy saddens us and his fans. □

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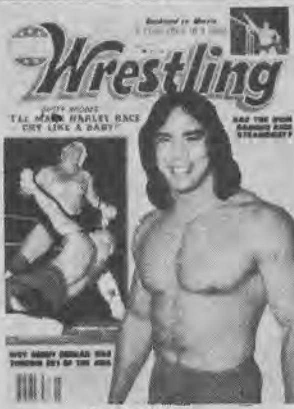


MAY 1979

April 1974/Stories include: Murdoch, Koloff, Sammartino, Strongbow.

July 1974/Stories include: Garea, Zbyszko, Heenan, Strongbow.

August 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Sheik, Albano, Ladd.

September 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.

November 1974/Stories include: Garvins, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.

June 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Abdullah, LeDuc, Brisco.

August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.

September 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.

January 1976/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Ladd, Putski.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.

March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.

April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.

June 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Bockwinkel, Flair, Mascaras.

August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.

September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.

October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.

November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.

December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.

January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.

February 1977/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Sammartino, Gagne.

May 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Sheik, Race.

August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.

September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.

October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.

November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.

December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.

February 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Koloff, Johnson.

March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.

April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.

May 1978/Stories include: Race, Putski, Von Erich, Andre.

August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.

November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.

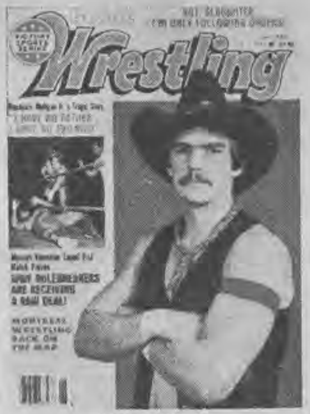
December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.

January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.

February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.

April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.



JUNE 1982

June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.

August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.

September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.

October 1979/Stories include: Rich, Rhodes, Backlund, Putski.

November 1979/Stories include: Snuka, Heenan, Race, Backlund.

February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.

March 1980/Stories include: Flair, Rich, Funk, Duncum.

April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.

May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.

June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.

July 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blassie.

August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.

September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.

November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.

February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.

April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.

January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humperdink.

February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

January 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Rich, Superstar, Piper.

February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

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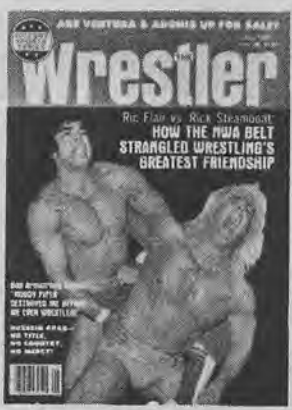

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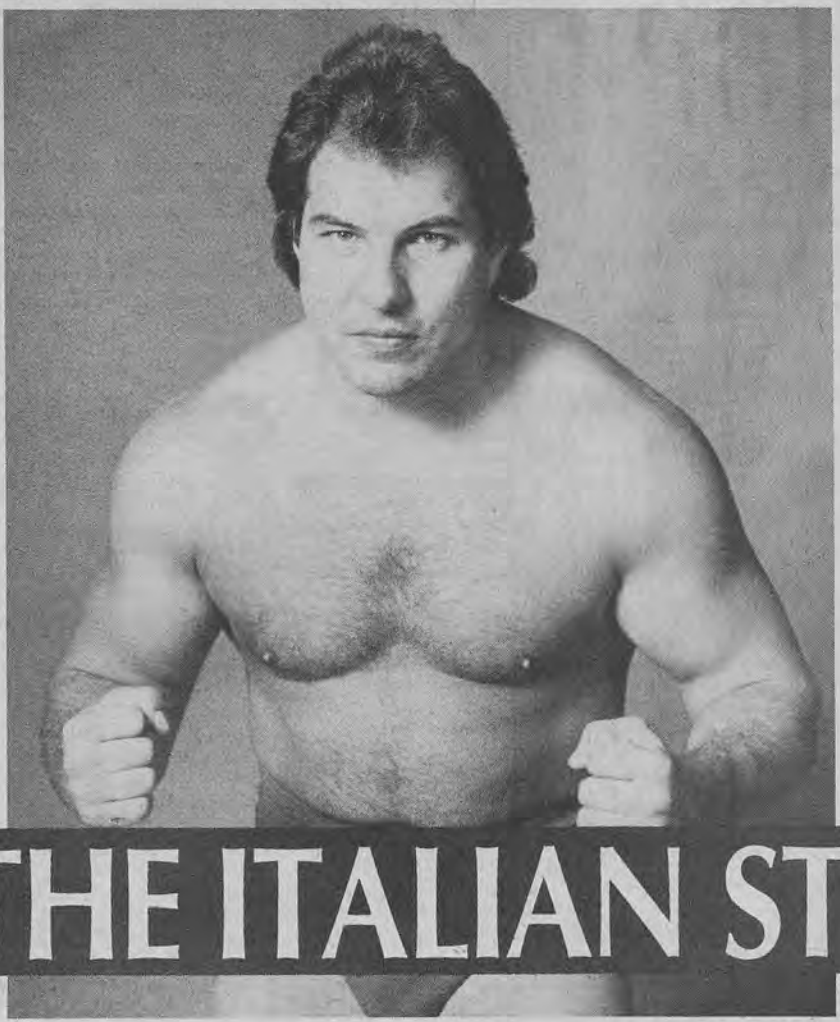

environment. A new home, a new school, and a new set of friends. And when Gary started attending school in Detroit, he discovered something else that would help him make it: wrestling.

"I started wrestling at about the age of eight," he says. "I started in gym class in school, and I loved it. There was something about the one-on-one nature of wrestling that really satisfied my sporting instincts in a way that team sports never did."

Sabaugh spent every day after school working out with the wrestling team. "My coach told me he saw some special talent in me," Gary says, "and hearing that made me work that much harder. And my success on the wrestling team was my way of fitting in, so the better I wrestled, I thought, the more I fit in with the kids at school.

"After a while," Gary continued, "I didn't need wrestling to fit in with the crowd, I needed wrestling for the sake of wrestling. It found its way into my blood. I loved it, and I just kept working harder and harder in order to get better and better."

Sabaugh's work paid off. He became a highly proficient amateur wrestler, claiming three state championships while in high school. He also wrestled in the Junior Olympics, and captured two prestigious AAU International championships.

"After my third state championship, I began to wonder where my amateur wrestling would take me," Gary said.

(Continued on page 62)

THE ITALIAN STALLION

"I'LL NEVER FORGET the feeling of waking up one morning in a strange city. I was a long way from what I had considered home, and even at that young age I realized I needed two things: a way to recapture the home I left behind, and a way to make this new city home all over again."

The home that Gary Sabaugh left behind was Naples, Italy. The "strange city" he woke up in as a young boy was Detroit. And wrestling soon proved to be the way to make this strange new city more bearable.

"When you're six or seven years old, you're very impressionable," Gary says. "At that age, Detroit was very frightening to me. I was just getting to the age where, in Italy, I was making friends, setting down real roots, and, well, beginning to grow up.

"When you're just about to get down to the business of growing up, and your young roots are ripped out of your homeland, it's very upsetting. I never wanted to go to Detroit, but when you're that age you haven't got much choice. You do what your family tells you to do, and you do whatever you feel you *have* to do in order to make it."

In Sabaugh's case, "making it" had a lot to do with fitting in to his new environment.

His name is Gary Sabaugh, but he prefers to be called "The Italian Stallion." He has been wrestling professionally for less than a year, and already he has shown the kind of promise that has wrestling observers and analysts talking about future championships and title glories

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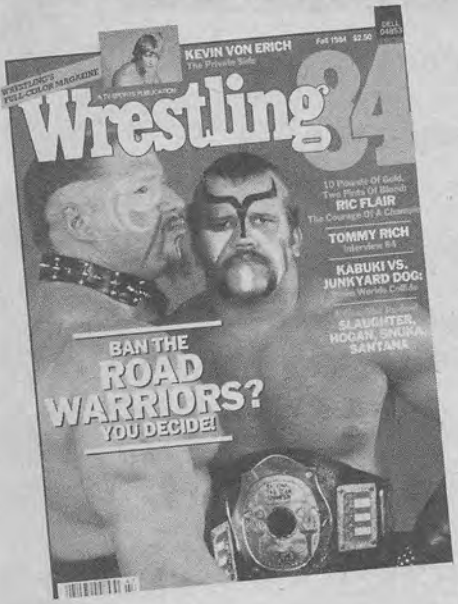

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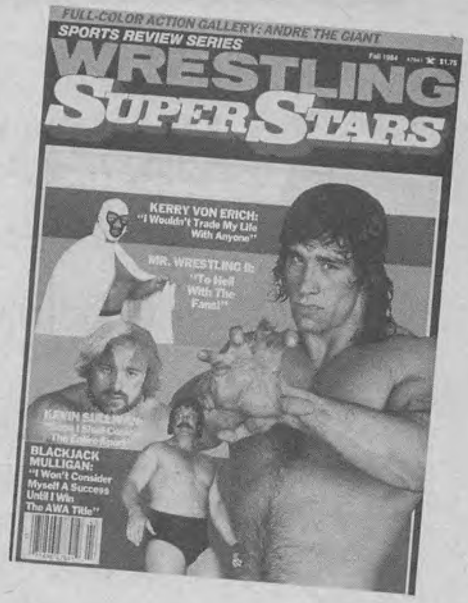

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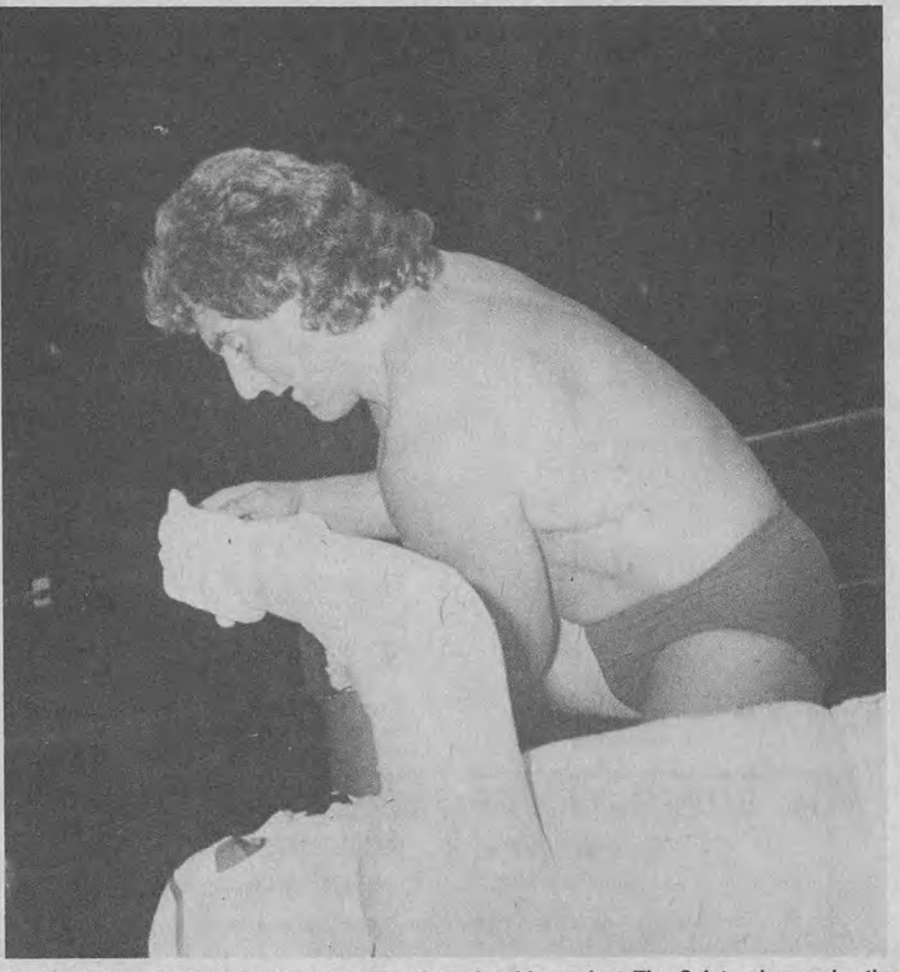


Scott McGhee defends his Florida State championship against The Saint, who, under the management of Sir Oliver Humperdink, is no saint.

Q: I was speaking with Coach John Heath, the promoter in Orlando, about you and he said that he feels that you are wrestling better now than ever before. What do you think about that?

A: What I think is that it's a very nice compliment, and the respect I have for Coach Heath makes it all the more special. Everyone has been very kind to me, not only since I've won the Florida title, but since I was a rookie. I'd like to thank your magazine, Joe, for all the nice things they've said about me.

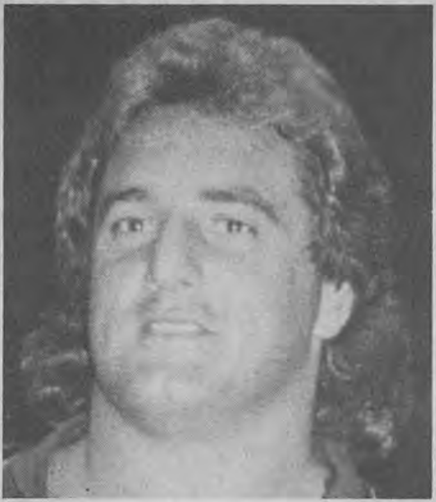
Q: Well, thank you, and I will relay your sentiments to my publisher and the staff.

A: Also, I'd like to say one more thing. I appreciate the good notices, just like everyone else does, but I also appreciate the constructive criticism on my matches I sometimes find in the pages of your magazines. It helps sometimes to have an impartial third party evaluate your performance, and you can learn a great deal from that criticism, as long as it's constructive.

Q: Speaking of performance, you put in a heck of a performance against The Saint tonight.

A: Well, thank you. I just tried my hardest. That's all you can do, try your hardest.

Q: How do you combat a man like The Saint, who has almost every illegal maneuver in existence at his



SCOTT McGHEE

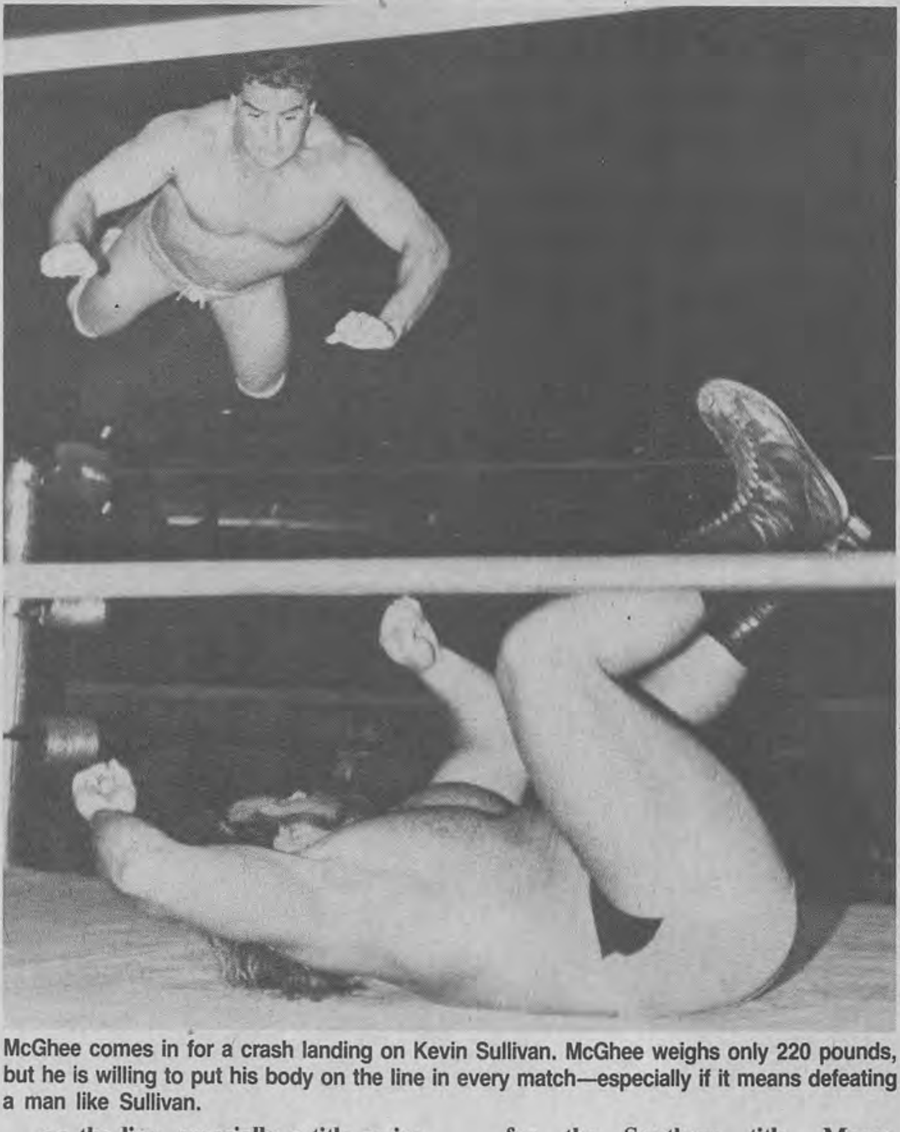
UPON RETURNING TO Florida last July, Scott McGhee made a challenge. He didn't brag nor boast as others might, he simply stated that he would like to challenge for some of the major titles in the state, namely the Southern and Florida state titles, the Florida junior heavyweight title, and the U.S. tag team championship. McGhee, a former Florida heavyweight and Global tag champion (with Magnum T.A.), could have provided a tough challenge to any of the then-champions, but he didn't get a chance to wrestle anyone but Graham. He defeated Graham on July 29 in Orlando to regain the title he had held for four months last year. McGhee has since defended the title in a classic scientific encounter with Mike Graham, and in matches against former Southern champion Jim Neidhardt, wildman Buck Robley, and The Saint. Assistant Editor Joseph Bua spoke to McGhee after a recent title defense against The Saint about his current championship reign, his upcoming challengers, and a possible opportunity to wrestle NWA champ Ric Flair.

disposal, and a manager at ringside who may interfere in the match at any moment?

A: **What you have to do is know what you're doing and where you're going at all times. You have to have a sense of where you are in the ring, how far you are from the ropes, how far you are from the manager, Sir Oliver Humperdink in this case, and you have to know exactly where you'll be not only after the next move, but two moves after that one. You have to think ahead. You always have to be three or four maneuvers in the future. This is why it makes me laugh when I hear people say that athletes are stupid. Like football—well, what you would call soccer here in the States. Strategy is everything in that game. The same thing in wrestling. Gordon Solie, probably one of the most articulate men I have ever met, calls it a game of human chess. That's the best description of the sport I have ever heard.**

Q: That sounds like a perfect description of your match against Mike Graham in August. The fans are still talking about it. Do you have to change anything in your style when you're wrestling in a purely scientific match?

A: **First of all, there is no such thing as a purely scientific match, although my bout against Mike came very close. But when there is a title on the line, especially a title as important and prestigious as the Florida State title, you never know what is going to happen. Look what happened here in Florida when Mike Rotundo was wrestling his supposed friend Angelo Mosca for the Southern title. Mosca pulled out all his old dirty tricks and won the title. That's what a championship does to a man. So you always have to be on your guard, even against a man with a reputation like Mike Graham's.**



McGhee comes in for a crash landing on Kevin Sullivan. McGhee weighs only 220 pounds, but he is willing to put his body on the line in every match—especially if it means defeating a man like Sullivan.

Mike almost took my title that night. A few more minutes in that ring and he could very well have been the Florida State champion. It was a great opportunity for the fans to see a clean match, and I hope they enjoyed watching it as much as I enjoyed wrestling in it.

Q: I know of three men who would love to get their hands on your title. How about I'll name them, and you can give me a quick analysis of each. First, Dory Funk Jr.

A: I have a great deal of respect for Mr. Funk's talents. He's a former NWA World champion, which tells you right off that he's one tough chap. He can give anyone a lesson on professional wrestling. Unfortunately, the man also has a mean streak that I would say runs about as wide and long as a cricket bat. Dory Funk Jr. lets his temper get the best of him, and I think I could take advantage of that in a match. I try to stay as calm as possible during my matches. If you get too emotional, you lose your concentration, you know.

Q: Kevin Sullivan.

A: Strange. Very, very strange. I've

McGhee's match strategy against The Saint includes keeping out of reach of his opponent's manager, Humperdink, whether he is at a disadvantage (above) or maintaining the upper hand (below).

never seen anything like it. This isn't the Kevin Sullivan I met in my rookie days. This is a completely different man, and it's scary to see the change in him. He seems to have assembled a menagerie of creatures around him, including these two female valets. Now back at home, we treat our women well, not the way Sullivan does. I can't bear to watch him drag that one poor girl around on a chain. It's just a horrid state of affairs. And Sullivan doesn't wrestle anymore. All he does is punch and kick. I think he's too involved in his cult activities to accomplish anything in the ring.

Q: One more. Mike Davis.

A: Again, a changed man, thanks again to Kevin Sullivan. Now Mike thinks he's Dusty Rhodes. Actually, though, Mike is wrestling better than ever before, and I think I know why. Mike has always been a good wrestler. He just lacked confidence in his abilities. I think Sullivan has actually convinced Mike that he *is* Dusty, and he has adopted Dusty's confidence. He could give me a real run for my money, I'll tell ya.

Q: Not only do you have people after you, but you have to be thinking about a challenge for the World title. Being the Florida champion places you in the NWA top 10, and makes you one of the top challengers to World champion Ric Flair. Are you thinking about the World title?

A: Only about a thousand times a day, but never while I'm preparing for a match. You have to concentrate on the next opponent at all times. Ric Flair is a great wrestler, and a fine champion. You have to credit him with so much for managing to hold on to that title with all the great men he has wrestled. The next time Flair comes through Florida, I'm sure I'll be considered for a title shot, and if I find myself in the ring with the man, I give it all I've got. Like I said, that's the best a man can do. □

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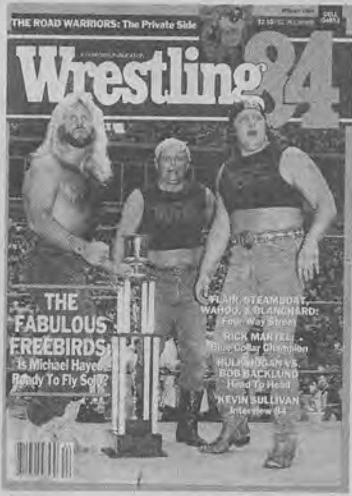

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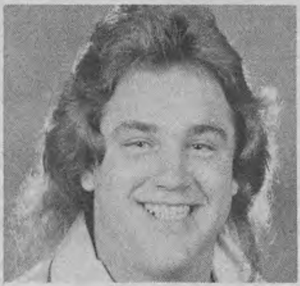
THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES



BRETT "HACKSAW" SAWYER

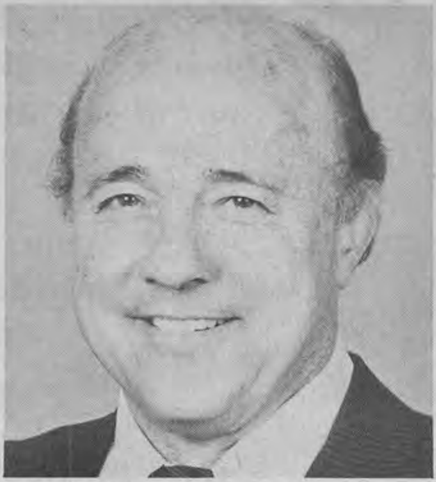
Each month THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and- coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal

Brett "Hacksaw" Sawyer has a reputation as a lady's man. True. But when he gets inside that ring, all he cares about is the finding the best way to defeat the man standing across from him. And roughly 90 percent of the time, that's exactly what happens. Experts feel that Sawyer has the potential to become a world champion within the next three years.

BRUNO SAMMARTINO

"Brett is a good, solid, young wrestler. I've seen him against a number of different opponents, and he seems to be able to adapt to any kind of style, like I did when I was WWF champion. If you're gonna be a champion you have to be able to do that. Brett looks like he has a big future ahead of him in this sport. I see big things for him."

Bruno Sammartino is known as wrestling's "Living Legend." He is the most popular wrestler to ever hold the WWF title.



VERNE GAGNE

"What impressed me most about Brett Sawyer was one match I saw him wrestle last year with Ronnie Garvin against The Road Warriors. I would say that the Warriors are the toughest team around, probably the toughest men wrestling will see in the 1980s, and Sawyer held his own against them. He has some heart, and that's something you need to make it."

Verne Gagne held the AWA title a record 11 times. He was named "Best Scientific Wrestler" of the last 25 years.

GENE KINISKI

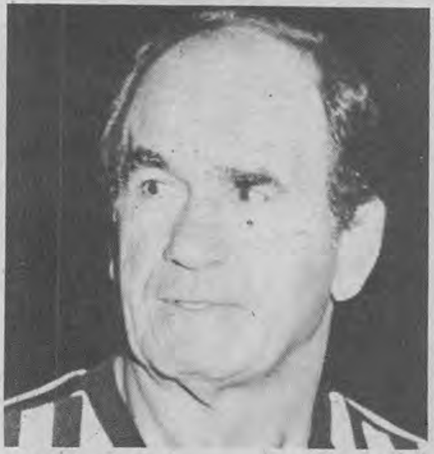
"Ya know what's wrong with Brett Sawyer? He's too hung up on appearances. He likes to keep his hair just right for the girls, and he doesn't like breaking the rules, 'cause the female fans might not like him then. Wrestling is just one big ego trip for this kid. He better wake up before someone gets hurt, that someone being him."

Gene Kiniski is a rugged Canadian who was NWA World champion in the late 1960s.

BUDDY ROGERS

"I'm concerned about Brett, because it seems to me he spends too much time thinking about what his brother Buzz is doing. Now, we all know that no one, not even his brother, can control Buzz Sawyer. I think Brett should worry more about himself. With a little more concentration on himself, Brett could become a great champion."

Buddy Rogers is the only man to hold both the NWA World title and the WWF title.



LOU THESZ

"I was astonished with the change in Brett Sawyer after Mr. Wrestling II took him under his wing a while back. He showed how quick a learner he is when he beat Larry Zbyszko to win the National title. If he can run into all the right people on his way to the top and learn something from each of them, he could be outstanding."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.

EDDIE GRAHAM

"The most recent Sawyer I've had the displeasure of seeing was Buzz. Thank God Brett isn't anything like him, 'cause I don't think wrestling could handle two of them. He's a scientific wrestler who can get aggressive if he has to. With some more experience, Brett will be ready for any of the major championships. I hope he comes to Florida."

Eddie Graham is a former co-holder of the World tag team title, and was a top contender for the NWA World title for more than 20 years.

Wrestler SPOTLIGHTS...

From time to time, *The Wrestler* will shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. These are unforgettable highlights of the sport's greatest stars, compiled by the largest staff of editors and photographers in wrestling journalism

HACKSAW JIM DUGGAN

WHEN HACKSAW JIM Duggan talks, there are two reasons his fans listen intently.

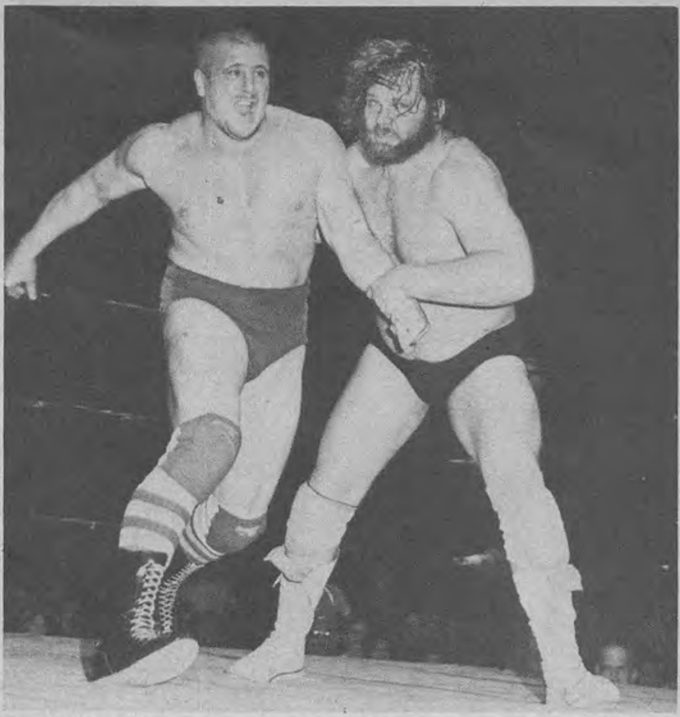
First of all, he talks very, very loud. He's so loud, in fact, that during television interviews, his voice echoes in supposedly echo-proof television studios.

More important, however, is that you can tell that Jim Duggan sincerely believes everything he says. In a sport where many ego-inflated competitors speak just to hear their own voices, Duggan chooses each word very wisely and speaks only when he has a point to make.

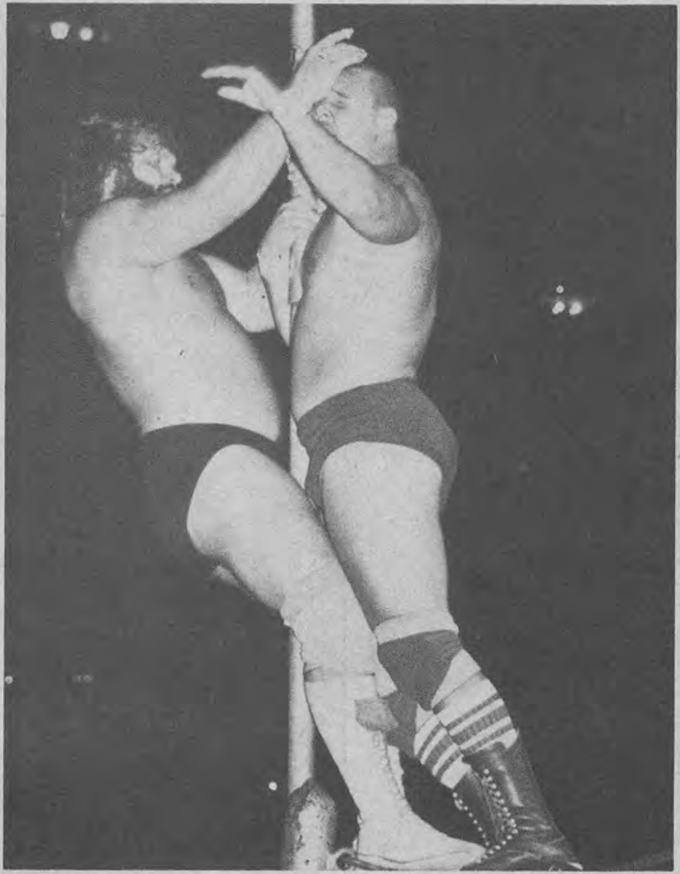
As a result, the 280-pound New York City native has developed a legion of loyal fans who have supported him through feuds with King Kong Bundy, Ted DiBiase, Butch Reed, Nikolai Volkoff, Krusher Khrushchev, and currently Hercules Hernandez and his manager, Jim Cornette.

Duggan's current feud with Cornette and Hernandez stems from his hatred of the way in which Cornette treats the Mid-South fans. The fans have responded enthusiastically to Duggan, and he repaid their loyalty in a series of matches against Hernandez.

A stipulation added to the contract for their last New Orleans match called for Duggan's hair to be cut if he lost, and Cornette's hair to be cut if Her-



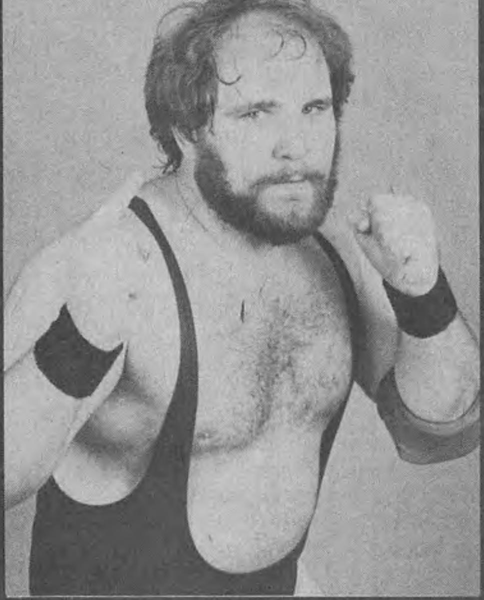
Duggan slams Hercules Hernandez but keeps a grip on the the bandage wrapped around his opponent's throat as he does so (left). Hacksaw will not be intimidated by Russians (Nikolai Volkoff, above) and Russian sympathizers (Krusher Khrushchev, below left). Even if Duggan has to use a chair, the Mid-South fans will be behind him (below right).



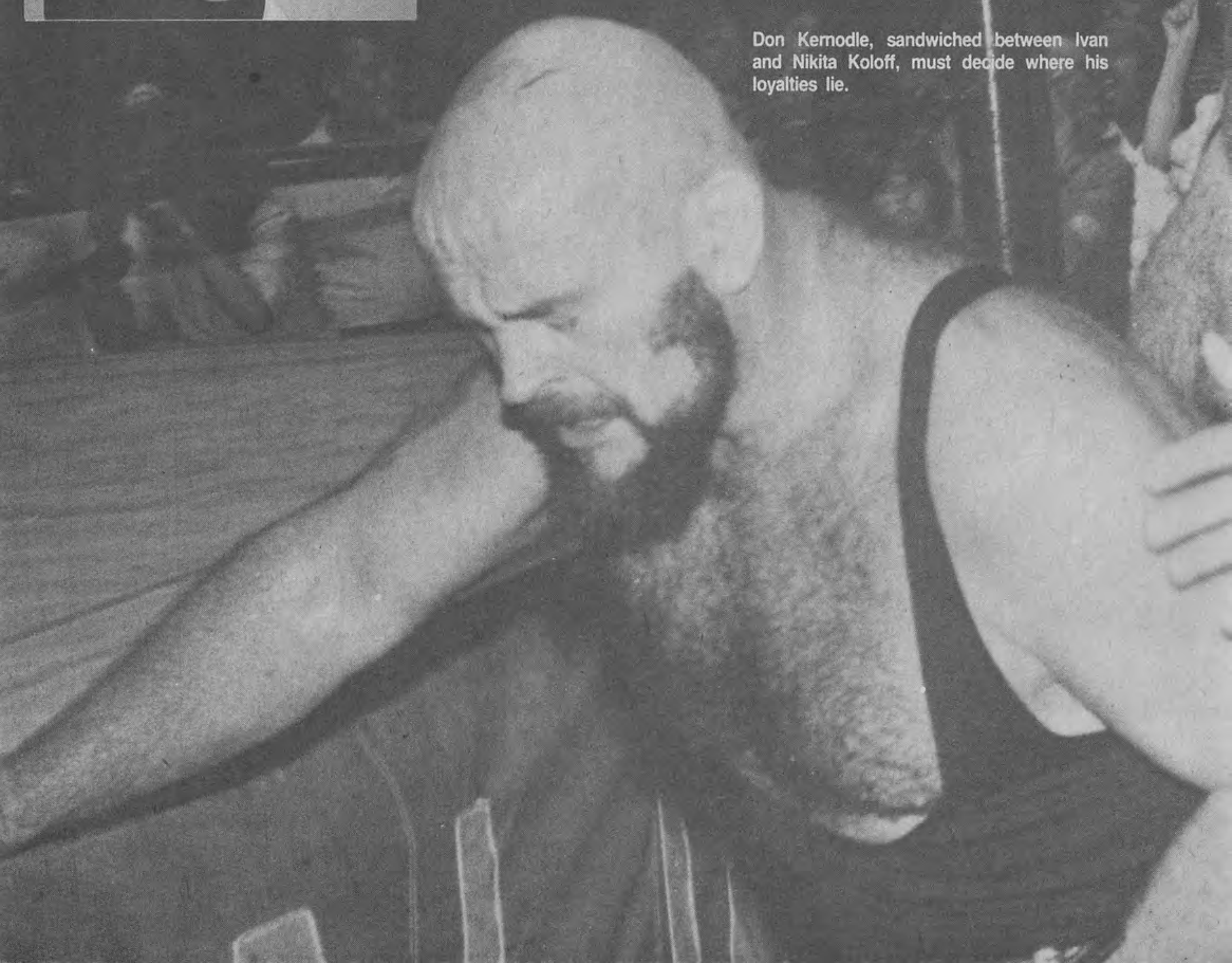
nandez lost. At the end of the bout at the Municipal Auditorium, it was Duggan who got to cut Cornette's hair amid the cheers of his fans.

Duggan has continued his battle against Cornette. In a recent Houston match, the now-bald Cornette put the hair of his cousin Percy on the line in another Hernandez-Duggan match. Now there are two bald Cornettes, one satisfied Hacksaw Duggan, and a lot of happy fans of the Hacksaw, who is quickly becoming one of the most popular men the Mid-South has ever seen. □

Koloffs & Kernodle: NOW IS THE TIME FOR TO STAND UP FOR AMERICA



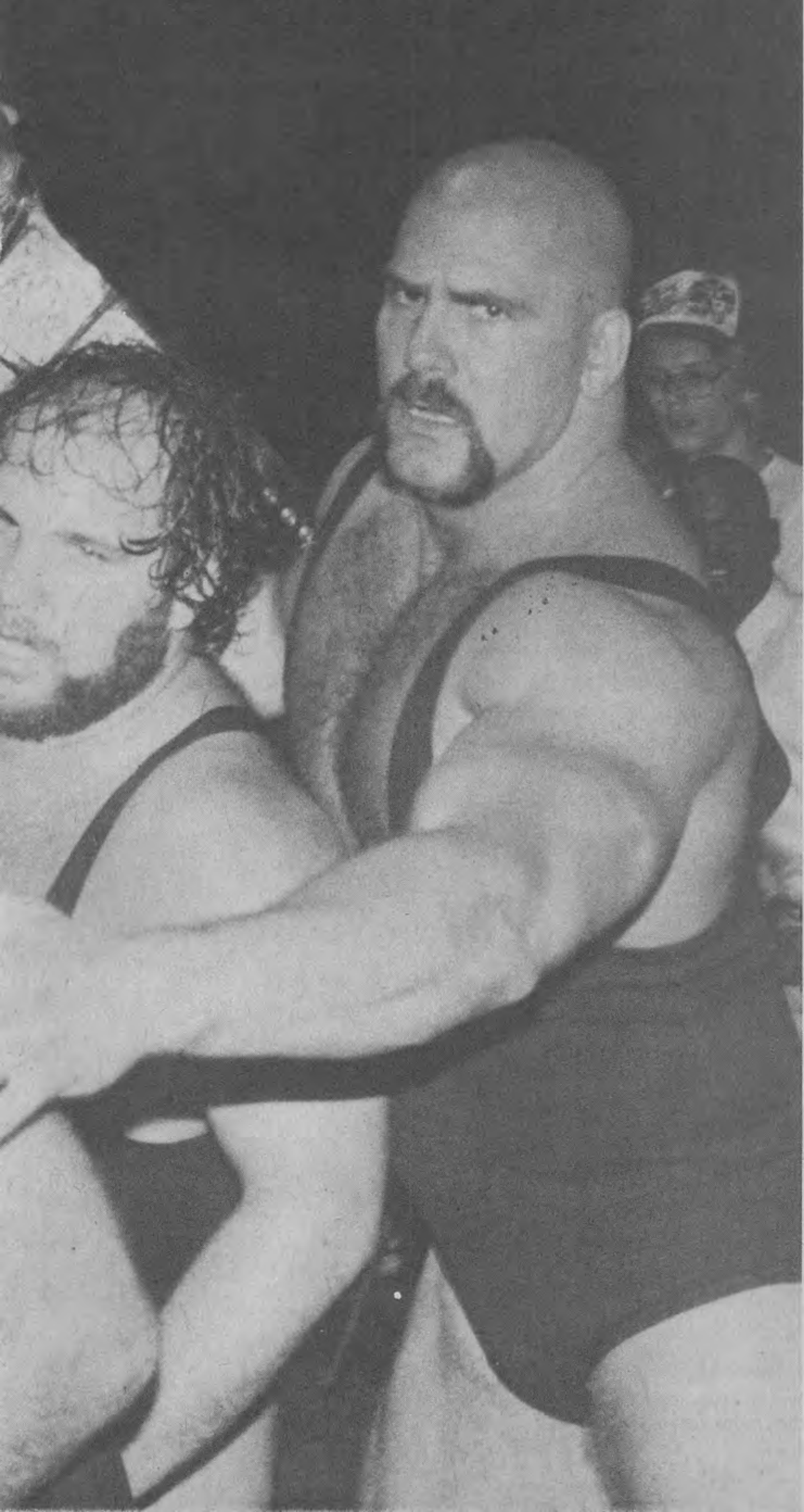
Though he doesn't show it in the ring, Don Kernodle is being torn apart by his loyalty to Ivan Koloff and his love for America. In this exclusive look at Kernodle's shocking agony, we learn that being a champion isn't the same as being a man



Don Kernodle, sandwiched between Ivan and Nikita Koloff, must decide where his loyalties lie.

Photos by Floyd See

DON KERNODLE



THE REPORTER WANTED to leave. The liquor was beginning to taste rancid, just like it always does when the night has gone on too long. Don Kernodle sat across from him, cold sober and babbling about a girl he knew in high school who had called him recently. By now, the reporter had heard too many of these reminiscences. This had been going on all night. Kernodle would start talking about someone, he'd flirt with getting to a point, and then he'd change the subject.

Kernodle and the reporter were the only ones in the hotel bar, not too surprising considering the hour. The waitress occasionally looked up from her book to see if the pair needed anything. At this point, she figured, the smaller guy can't stand and the bigger guy is trying to set the world's record for drinking coffee. Hours ago, she ceased to be curious about what the pair were discussing. Actually, only the big guy was talking because the guy who was boozing it up couldn't get a word in edgewise. She hoped the drunk would leave the tip. Drunks always tip better.

Kernodle stared at his bleary companion. He needed to tell somebody and the reporter was teetering on the borderline of consciousness. It was now or never. Finally, Kernodle was forced to get to the point.

"You know the type of girl I'm talking about," Kernodle said, talking about his high school sweetheart, "the kid that makes you proud of yourself because she likes you. I hadn't heard from her in years. Well, she called because she has a son who's a wrestling fan. And she told me," and Kernodle was quiet for a long time before he continued, "she said she was ashamed for her son to see me. When I get into the ring with Ivan Koloff, it makes her sick. When she said that, it

(Continued on page 54)

Exclusive!

CAPT. LOU ALBANO'S APOLOGY TO CYNDI LAUPER

By Capt. Lou Albano

The feud between Capt. Lou Albano and rock star Cyndi Lauper had reached epic proportions. Albano had claimed to be her manager, an assertion that Lauper, and her true manager, Dave Wolff, vehemently denied. The bitterness between the two parties increased with each passing day. Finally, a match between Albano-advised Fabulous Moolah and Lauper-advised Wendi Richter would settle the dispute. Richter won the match and the WWF World Women's wrestling title. The victory also cost Albano an apology to Cyndi Lauper. This is that apology

THIS IS CAPT. Lou Albano, brother, the maker of 14 WWF tag team champions. As you know, continuity is a very important factor in tag team effort, and I am able to control this by filming my matches in their entirety, by watching them, by being very versatile, and by knowing what it takes to have a combined effort, because in the past, Capt. Lou Albano was a former champion in his own right.

Now as far as Cyndi Lauper goes, I have made a formal apology. Basically, because Cyndi Lauper and myself are involved in the multiple sclerosis drive to raise money for the two million Americans who have contracted multiple sclerosis.

Now I'm not gonna go out there and make a fool of myself, I'm not gonna beg, and I'm not gonna plead, and I'm not gonna get down on my knees. I'm gonna say: Cyndi Lauper, I'm sorry for saying that all women were wimps, belonged in the household, were good for raising babies and

Cyndi Lauper, standing next to her mother, listens to Capt. Lou Albano's apology (above). Cyndi moves closer to her former idol (right). The two hug and all is forgiven (opposite page, right).

cleaning the kitchen. All right, let's face it, I'm sorry. Women are good for many, many other things, they're on a level of a man. So I was wrong.

Now, I'm doing this to bury the hatchet, to get together with Cyndi Lauper, and to raise money. As you know I was chosen as a judge in the Ugly Bartender contest. It's gonna be my pickings against Cyndi Lauper's.

I feel that I'm qualified to talk about ugliness, and ugliness is involved in multiple sclerosis. How would Cyndi Lauper know about being ugly? She's a cute little girl and she wouldn't know what it means to be ugly. But when I get up in the morning and look into a mirror, it takes me 20 minutes before I can brush my teeth, looking at an old ugly face like this. I've got over 700 stitches in my face, my nose has been fractured seven times. You can look at Lou Albano and you know you know the meaning of ugliness. So I wrote the book on ugly.

Multiple sclerosis, as I said, is contracted by two million Americans between the ages of 18 and 45. In most cases it renders a person helpless. They get weaker and weaker and weaker. The symptoms can be anything from dizziness to weakness; there are many, many symptoms. The cure has not been found as of now. So I have decided to dedicate my time to the multiple sclerosis drive, and because of this I have made this apology to Cyndi Lauper.

"I'm sorry for discrediting women, I'm sorry for going out and saying that women belong in the household and that they have the brain of dehydrated BBs, and if you put a woman's brain . . . uh, rather, if you put a dehydra . . . put the brain of a woman in a parakeet, I had made a statement a parakeet would fly backwards. Okay, that was wrong. Women are very competent, they're at the level of men, and I apologize.

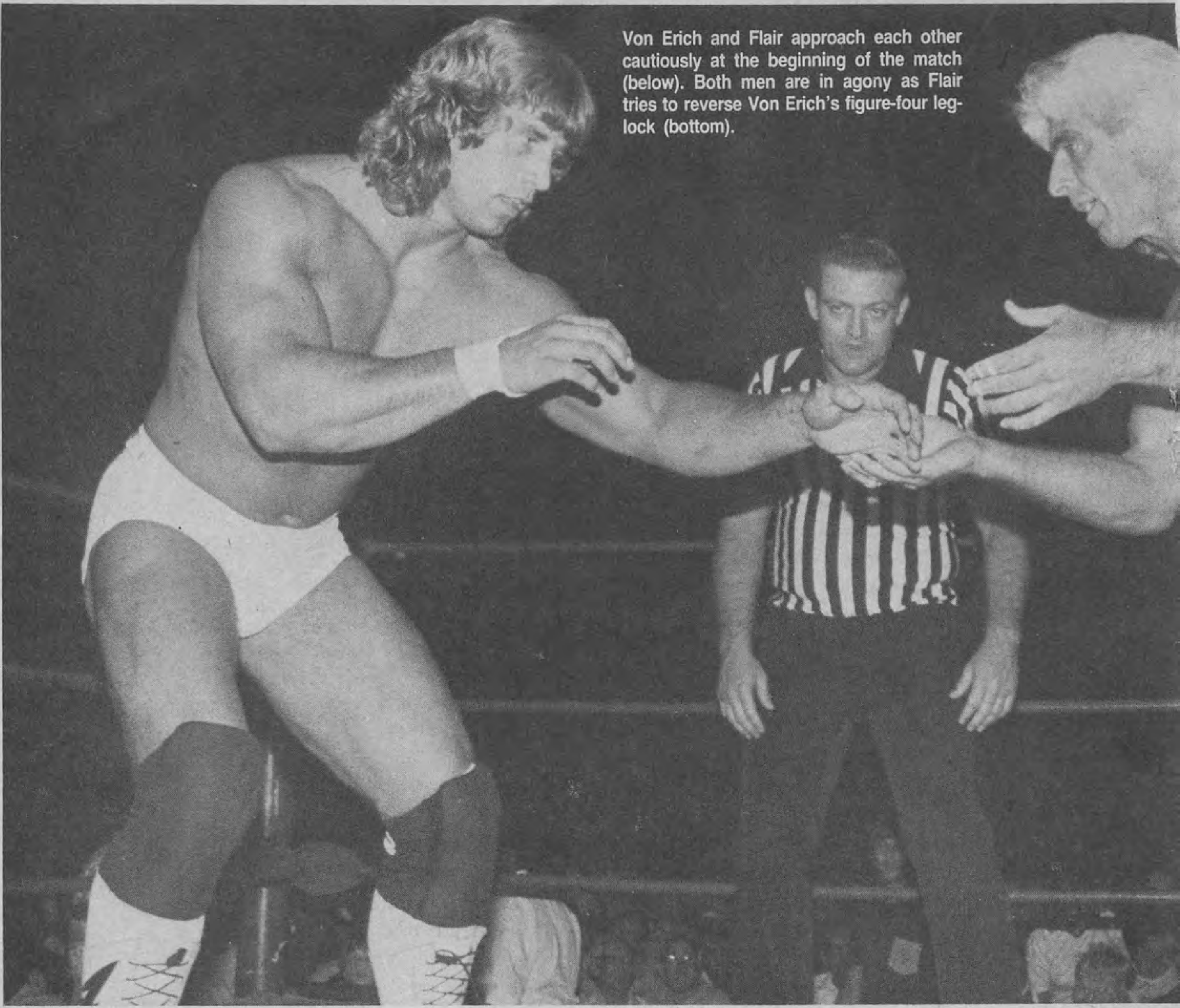
The scene at Madison Square Garden after Fabulous Moolah loses the World Women's title in the special challenge match to Wendi Richter: Moolah attacks referee Jack Lotz; Lauper, Dave Wolff, and Wendi Richter celebrate; and Lou Albano doesn't know what to do (above). Lauper and Albano appear together in the "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" video (below).

[Editor's note: In the above story, mention is made of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's "Ugliest Bartender Contest."

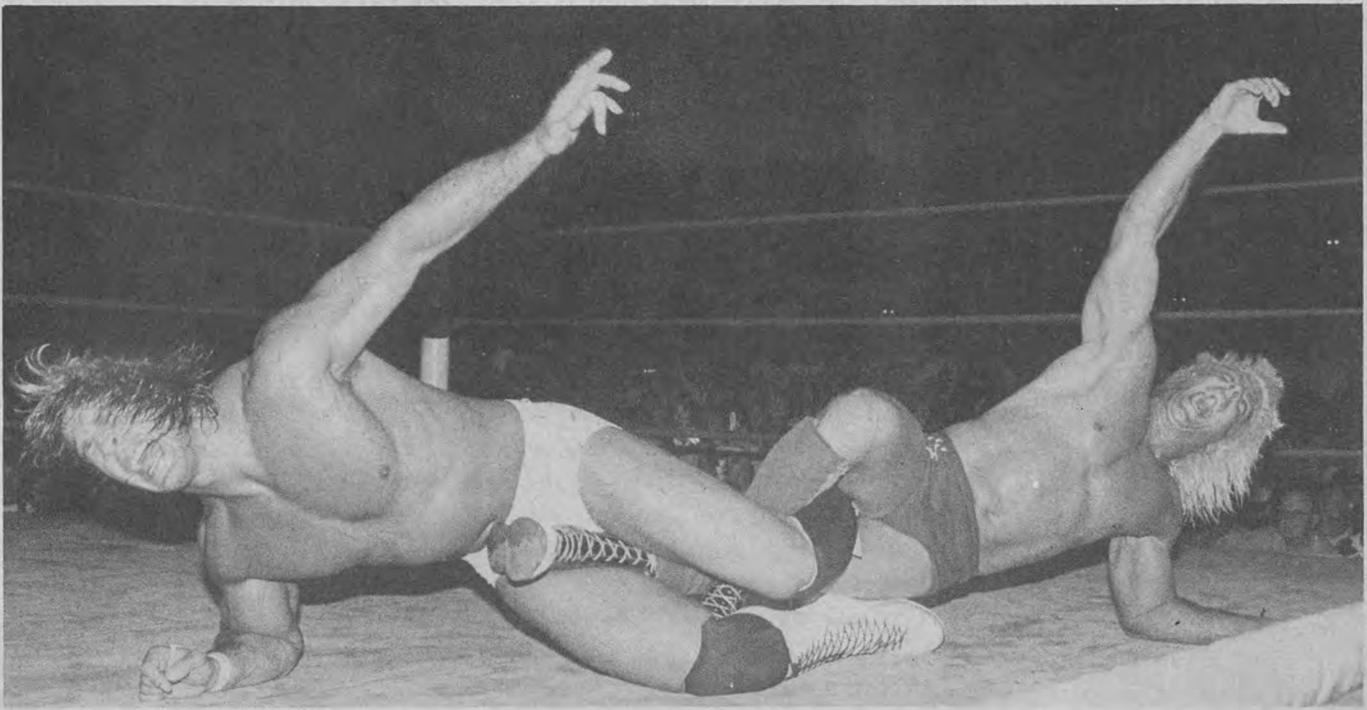
According to a press release from the New York City chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the "Ugliest Bartender Contest" is "one of the MS Society's biggest fund-raising events. Patrons of local restaurants, lounges, pubs, and bars vote for their favorite 'ugly' bartender by contributing money on-premesis to MS—with each 25-cent donation being worth one vote. U.G.L.Y. has a very positive connotation for bartenders: It stands for Understanding, Generous, Lovable, and Youthful."

Cyndi Lauper is serving as chairman of the New York City MS chapter's "Ugliest Bartender" campaign, while Albano is chairman of the contest for the MS chapters in neighboring Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester counties. The contest runs through November 20.

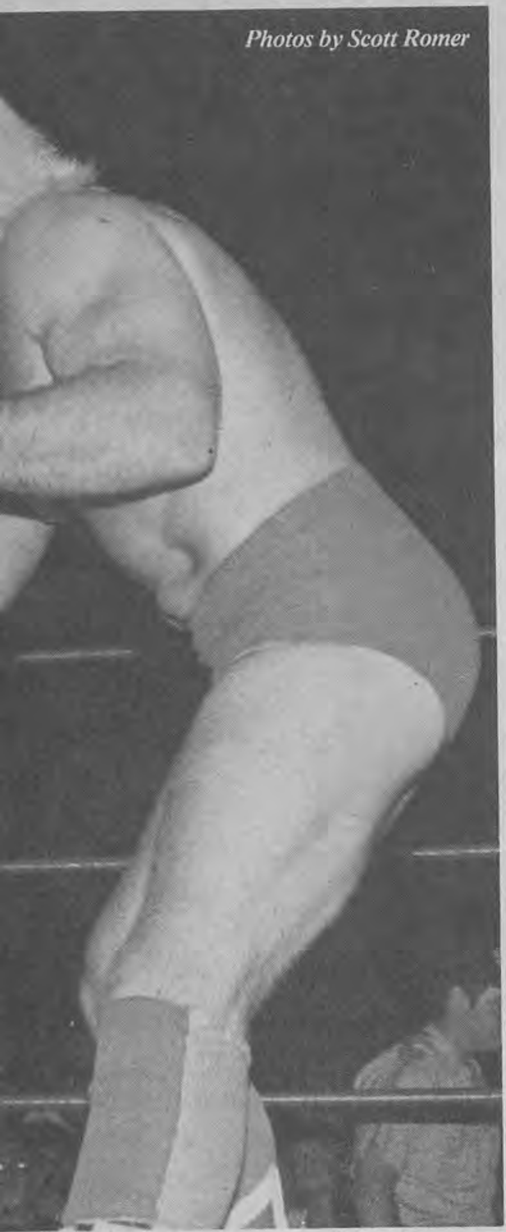
The winning bartenders from Albano's areas will face off against Lauper's winners in a "Bartender's Pentathalon" at the contest finals. Lauper and Albano will be on hand to coach their respective teams. Keep an eye on upcoming issues of The Wrestler *for information and coverage of this special event.]* □



Von Erich and Flair approach each other cautiously at the beginning of the match (below). Both men are in agony as Flair tries to reverse Von Erich's figure-four leg-lock (bottom).



Photos by Scott Romer



Since the end of his brief NWA World title reign, Kerry Von Erich has lived on the fringes of a dream waiting to be reborn. Over the course of several rematches with current NWA champion Ric Flair, Von Erich has demonstrated the highest caliber of excellence. The rebirth of Von Erich's dream—wearing the coveted 10 pounds of gold—may take place very, very soon

KERRY VON ERICH:

"I'VE GOT RIC FLAIR'S NWA TITLE WITHIN MY GRASP"

KERRY VON ERICH sat in his dressing room at the Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis contemplating the loss he had suffered at the hands of Ric Flair only seconds earlier.

"It was so close," Kerry said, "so close I could almost taste it. At one point I had Flair caught in his own main hold, the figure-four leglock, and for those few minutes it was sheer agony for both of us.

"That was when I realized how closely we're matched," Kerry continued. "Flair was trying to reverse and I was giving it everything I had to stop him. For a couple of minutes neither of us had the hold on the other—it was just a remarkable struggle to see who would gain control. Those were some of the most intense moments I've ever spent in the ring."

Kerry was unusually reflective following his title match with Flair . . . but then again, Kerry is in an unusual position in the wrestling world today.

He is a member of that most select fraternity: the group of ex-NWA champions.

As a former holder of the most coveted championship in all of professional wrestling, Kerry Von Erich is priviliged—and limited—in many ways.

- Former NWA champions who are still actively wrestling have already proven themselves to be the cream of the professional wrestling crop. Those who are still in the prime of their wrestling careers are automatically looked upon as top prospects for regaining that title sometime in the indeterminate future. As a result, the former champion experiences pressure from public and press in the form of predictions as to *when* he will regain the title, and analyses as to *how* he can regain the belt. Those pressures can serve two functions: They can aid the man in understanding how to become champion again, or they can weigh heavily on his mind and form a psychological barrier to becoming champion again.
- Former champions are among the first men chosen as opponents for the current champion. While this is a privilige to the former champion, it can also serve as a limitation to that former champion. In the case of Kerry Von Erich, for example, he has had to reduce his defenses of the World Class six-man championship, which he holds

(Continued on page 64)

HOW IT FEELS TO GET BEATEN UP BY THE ROAD WARRIORS

Blackjack Lanza and Curt Hennig felt that they had a foolproof plan for beating The Road Warriors. But despite all their training and preparation, they were obliterated by the AWA World tag team champions. In this story, Lanza and Hennig offer their own views of a most brutal match

CURT HENNIG: "Jack and I spent—oh, I would say a good week and a half in training. Sure, we had our usual contractual obligations to fulfill, and we did so. But matches take place at night, and that gave us a whole morning and afternoon to work out together.

"We would start at about 10 in the morning, work on teamwork and combination maneuvers for about three hours, break for a light lunch, and go back to the gym for another three hours after that. That was the average schedule: six hours a day, and we did it for about 10 days.

"The thing is, you see, we were both amazed at how quickly the Warriors conquered the AWA. They didn't make it to the title on their looks, you know. Raw muscle, power, and vicious teamwork are the three main elements that make the Warriors so successful. We knew that we would have to combat those elements."

Hennig sees Animal's elbow headed straight for him, but his body will not respond to the instinct of self-protection.

BLACKJACK LANZA: "If there's one lesson I've learned from my years of experience it's this: Never underestimate your opponent.

"Too many times in early years in this sport I went into a match unprepared and paid the price for it. I learned that lesson the hard way, and it's something I've never forgotten.

"So when the contract came up for me and Curt to wrestle The Road Warriors, we discussed it and decided that we would only accept the match if we were allowed enough time to prepare. Hey—Hawk and Animal are a couple of big boys. You don't go in after them half-cocked. You've gotta know where you're coming from, where they are, and what your battle plan is. And with Ellering in their corner, it's like wrestling three on two."

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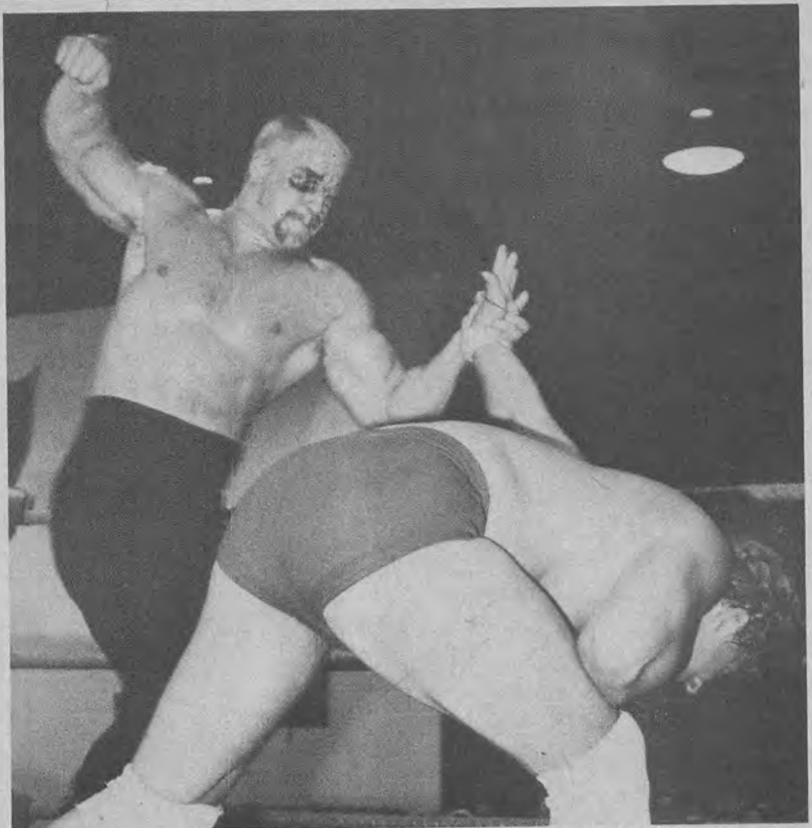
CURT HENNIG: "We made a decision right off the bat that, when we stepped into the ring, we wouldn't let



Road Warrior Hawk delivers a ring-shaking bodyslam against Blackjack Lanza (far left). Hawk throws Lanza into the ropes (left) and will greet him with an elbow on the rebound. His arm twisted behind him, Curt Hennig takes a beating from Hawk (above).

Hawk's legdrop leaves Lanza gasping for air. Lanza was amazed at how agile The Road Warriors were for men so large.

the Warriors' makeup or demeanor frighten us. We'd be dealing directly with what they do to us in the ring, not how loud they scream or how much makeup they put on their faces. Those can be two easy distractions.

"When the match started, it was Jack in the ring against Hawk, and I remember my thoughts as I stood on the ring apron watching those first minutes of the match.

"I was thinking: *Wow!* All the films that me and Jack watched, all the preparation that we went through, all the psych that we built up—it means nothing. Films of the Warriors are one thing, but stepping into the ring with them is something completely different."

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BLACKJACK LANZA: "I must say, I gained instant respect for the Warriors during the opening moments of that match. They're even more powerful than I had imagined, and their speed is uncanny. For two big men, they move tremendously fast.

"One of the first blows I took was a kick to the ribs by Animal. Completely took me by surprise. Looking back now on that shot, it reminds me of when I was just a little scrapper and got in the wrong way of a horse. That horse mulekicked me right in the chest and bowled me over like a scarecrow. But that was when I was only about seven years old, and we're talking a lot of years later, now. I'm a big boy, you see, and when I get mulekicked by a Road Warrior, I don't rightly expect it to have that kind of an effect on me. But it did."

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CURT HENNIG: "Hawk threw me into the ropes and came back at me

with an elbowsmash. Now I've been hit with elbowsmashes before, but never one like that. It sent me down to the mat like a sack of wet cement. It was—it was kind of like I went numb all over, starting from my chest and working out to my hands and feet. It was the strangest feeling. It only lasted a couple of seconds, but I never felt anything like that before in my life."

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BLACKJACK LANZA: "I was angry. I caught Animal in, well, not really a headlock. Actually, I tried twisting his damn head right off. Let me describe it to you this way: Have you ever tried to grab a fire hydrant and twist it up out of the ground? Well, you'll have as much success at that as you will at trying to do any damage to Animal."

•

CURT HENNIG: "I can't say all our strategy was ineffectual. But then again, I can't say we made a whole lot of headway against those guys. After about 10 minutes, I felt like I was being run through a gauntlet. Elbowsmashes, shouldersmashes, bodyslams—the most common moves become devastating when the Warriors use them against you. I would just about shake off a bodyslam, and then along comes a shouldersmash and knocks me down, knocks the wind out of me again. There's no question in my mind that it was the most grueling and brutal match I've ever wrestled."

Three elbowsmashes to Hennig's ribs will free Hawk from a hammerlock (above left). Animal applies pressure to Lanza's neck muscles and escapes Blackjack's bearhug (above right). Lanza will not be able to sustain his advantage over Lanza for long (top right). Hennig knows that he will be in trouble when he rebounds off the ropes (below).

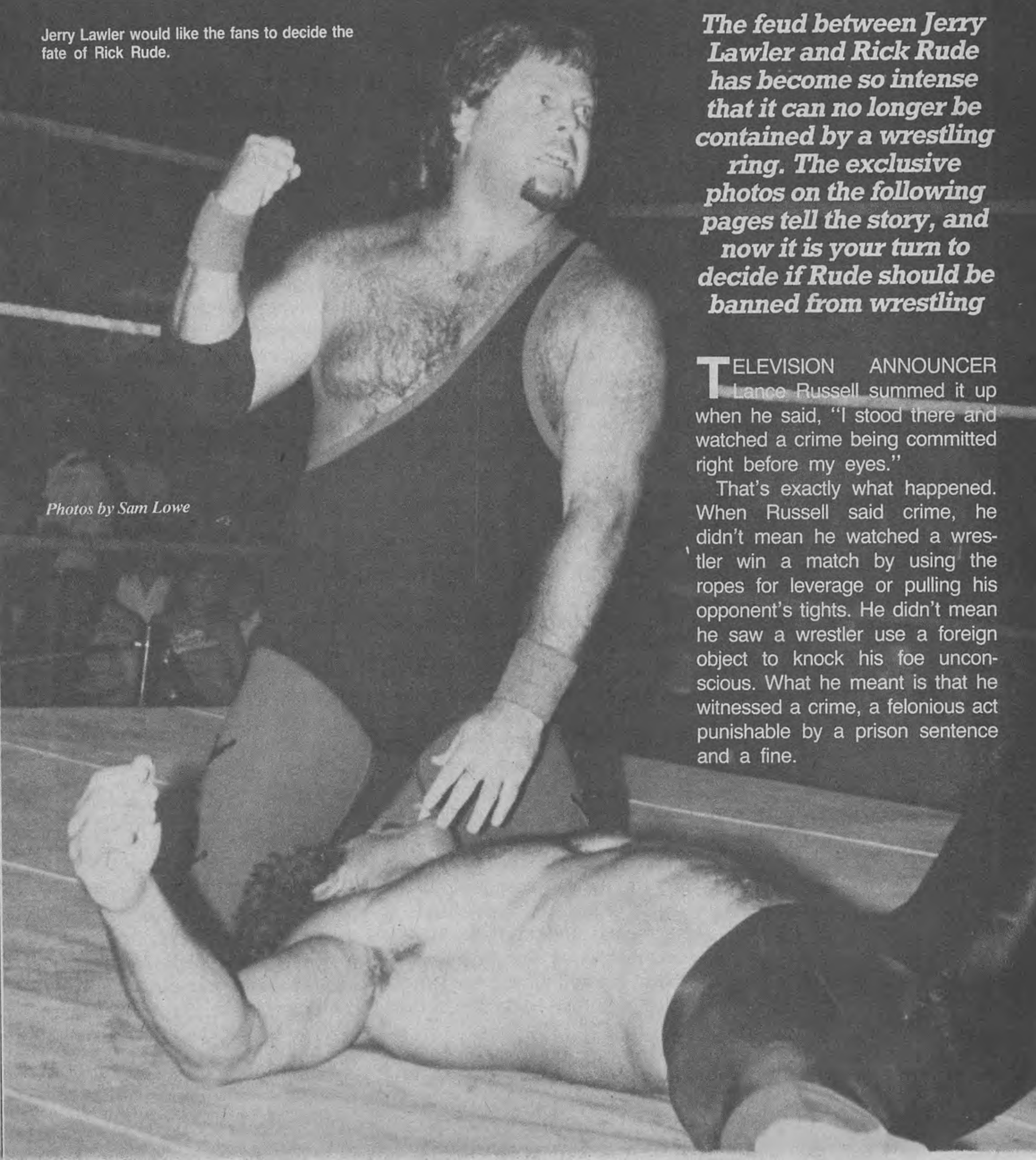
•

BLACKJACK LANZA: "No, we didn't do so great against the Warriors. Yes, they beat us up. And after 10 days of prematch preparation, and maybe 10 minutes of actual wrestling, we're gonna suffer about 10 days of postmatch pain.

"I'll tell you something: After the match was over, and I got back to my dressing room and the adrenaline level in my body went down, I felt pain. Real, throbbing, aching pain throughout my entire body. Pain like I've never felt in my life.

"I think I forgot my own lesson. Curt and I underestimated the Warriors. But after getting beat up by them once, it won't happen again. We know what we're up against, and now I think we can do something about it. All we need now is the opportunity to wrestle them again. We won't underestimate them a second time." □

HOW YOU CAN HELP JERRY LAWLER BAN RICK RUDE FROM WRESTLING!



Jerry Lawler would like the fans to decide the fate of Rick Rude.

Photos by Sam Lowe

The feud between Jerry Lawler and Rick Rude has become so intense that it can no longer be contained by a wrestling ring. The exclusive photos on the following pages tell the story, and now it is your turn to decide if Rude should be banned from wrestling

TELEVISION ANNOUNCER Lance Russell summed it up when he said, "I stood there and watched a crime being committed right before my eyes."

That's exactly what happened. When Russell said crime, he didn't mean he watched a wrestler win a match by using the ropes for leverage or pulling his opponent's tights. He didn't mean he saw a wrestler use a foreign object to knock his foe unconscious. What he meant is that he witnessed a crime, a felonious act punishable by a prison sentence and a fine.

Rude executes a corkscrew neckbreaker against Lawler, but for the most part, Rick was able to do little with "The King."

Not only did Russell see the crime take place, but so did thousands of Mid-Southern wrestling fans, watching on television. They saw Rick Rude and Jimmy Hart being interviewed by Russell in the WMC-TV studios in Memphis. They saw Rude toting a baseball bat. They saw Rude and Hart leave the studio and walk out to the parking lot. They saw Rude walk over to Jerry Lawler's $25,000 Lincoln Continental. They saw Rude climb onto the hood of the car. And then they watched Rude destroy the car. He smashed the windshield and the taillights. He dented the roof, the hood, and the trunk. He swung with all his might at the rear fenders.

Lawler was in his dressing room at the TV studio. "I caught sight of the TV monitor out of the corner of my eye," Lawler said. "I saw cars, and my first thought was that it was a commercial. But then I realized the car on TV was mine, and Rick Rude was smashing it up."

Lawler ran out to the parking lot to stop Rude's vandalism, but as he approached the car screaming, King Kong Bundy drove up in a convertible with Hart. Rude jumped in and screamed "Sucker!" to Lawler as they pulled away.

"I've never seen anything like this happen before," promoter Jerry Jarrett said. "There is no place in professional wrestling for this type of thing. This kind of thing goes on in high school gangs, not in the world of professional sports. I'm sickened.

"If it were up to me," Jarrett continued, "I would have had Rude arrested. After all, he committed a crime. This is a unique situation, though. Lawler doesn't want me to turn Rude in. And I have to respect his wishes. He wanted the opportunity to punish Rude in another way, and by that I mean in the ring. And he has done just that."

Lawler has in fact gotten several matches with Rude and although he has taught the young rulebreaker a valuable lesson, he has not succeeded in running him out of the sport. So now Lawler looks to Jarrett. As the promoter, Jarrett has the power to refuse to let Rude wrestle in the Mid-South-

FAN BALLOT

Should Rick Rude Be Banned From Wrestling?

☐ **Yes** I want Rick Rude banned from wrestling

☐ **No** Let Rick Rude continue to wrestle

Send your ballot to:
Rick Rude Vote, c/o *The Wrestler*, Box 48, Rockville, Centre, NY 11571

ern area. "I can turn down anyone I want for whatever reason I want," he said. "Lawler and I have spoken about it, and now that he has taken a good-sized piece of hide out of the guy, he wants to make sure Rude never wrestles again, at least not here in front of his hometown fans."

"My fans should not have to sit through matches that this slimeball is involved in," Lawler said. "They shouldn't have to pay money to see Rick Rude. So, I've asked Mr. Jarrett if there was any way for him to get rid of the scum."

Jarrett was hesitant at first, noting that it would set a bad precedent to ban a successful wrestler. So, he has decided to leave the decision up to the fans.

"It's all up to them," Jarrett said. "I know the fans in the Mid-Southern area saw the event take place on television. And for the other fans, they can see and read about what happened right here. I will have each ballot counted by my staff and I will read any and all comments that accompany them," Jarrett said. "I'm going to consider the voice of the fans highly. [The poll results will be printed in the March 1985 issue of *The Wrestler,* on sale January 8]. After all, the fans spend the money to go to the matches, and they watch faithfully each week on television. It's their loss if Rude is banned. What I want to find out is how much he'll be missed."

"Not at all, if you ask me," Lawler said. "Since this has all happened, everybody I see on the street and in restaurants and stores are saying things like, 'Do us a favor and get rid of that jerk for us.' I've beaten him as much as one man can another, and he's still around. So, it's up to Mr. Jarrett to get rid of him. I know that's what the fans want."

Asked to comment on Jarrett's plans, Rude's manager Hart became quite nervous. "They can't do that," he said, "that's restraint of trade. They can't stop Rick from wrestling. He has a license. He has a following. The fans, the female fans who love to watch Rick wrestle, they won't vote against us. It doesn't matter anyway, because I have a team of laywers that can't be beat. They won't let this happen to me. They can't let this happen."

According to Jarrett, however, it can happen. The facts and the photos have been presented. It's time for you to make this most crucial decision. ☐

Rude will catch the brunt of Lawler's piledriver on the back of his neck as he tucks his head while descending to the mat.

MATT BROCK'S LOOKING BACK

DECEMBER 1975
BRUTE BERNARD vs. CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW

THE NEWS SHOCKED my nervous system like a two-ounce shot of Jack Daniels on a cold winter evening. Brute Bernard was dead, the victim of a gunshot wound inflicted when the pistol he was cleaning accidentally fired.

But that was months ago. The numbness brought on by the tragic news of the passing of another great one has seeped into my body, to join the numbness brought on this year by the passing of many greats: wrestlers Lord Althol Layton, El Santo, and David Von Erich, plus noted promoter Vince McMahon Sr.

But enough sobbing in my Scotch. Life goes on for the living, and it is up to us to recall the battles and glories that made those who passed on as great as they were. For as long as memories persist, those who have gone will never really be gone.

In the case of Brute Bernard, I'll never forget a match he wrestled in Macon, Georgia, against Chief Jay Strongbow.

It was a chilly day in December back in '75. Not too long ago, really, only nine years, but now it seems like an eternity. I could recount the events of that night, but I think the best description of the character of that match was published in the April 1976 issue of *The Wrestler.*

Brute Bernard swings a metal barrier support at Chief Jay Strongbow's leg during their brutal encounter in Macon, Georgia. Bernard recently died after accidentally shooting himself while cleaning his gun.

Even the most hardened spectators were turning away in horror. The mangled, bloody face of Chief

Bernard slams Strongbow's face into the timekeeper's table (top). The referee is not helping the Chief much by pushing him back into the ring (above). It takes two referees to keep the combatants apart after the match (below).

Jay Strongbow was a terrifying and hideous sight. And still, Brute Bernard smashed the metal pipe across Strongbow's face.

With the first crack of metal against Strongbow's skull, blood began to gush from slashed skin. Goaded by the spectacle of Jay's wounds, Bernard continued his inhuman attack. Only when Strongbow sank to the concrete, his blood staining the gray floor scarlet, did Bernard attempt to get back into the ring.

The match ended when the referee stopped the action because Strongbow was bleeding too badly. That story concluded by referring to the damage caused by Bernard and the prospects for future opponents:

Another man might still be killed by Brute Bernard. And as far as Chief Jay Strongbow is concerned, any referee who doesn't disqualify Bernard will be an accomplice.

At the time, it could well have been possible. Bernard was a class-A hell-raiser when the bug crawled under his skin. Sometimes it took three referees and a half dozen wrestlers from the dressing rooms to bring him under control.

But anyway, back to Macon.

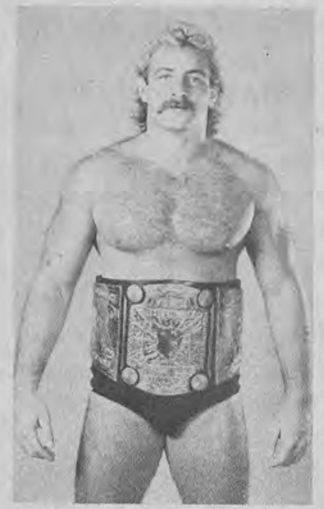
There was a woman sitting in the seat next to me in the arena that night. When Bernard took the pipe to Strongbow's head, she shrieked right in my ear: "Oh my God! Look what he's doing to that poor man! This is horrible!"

She nearly made me spill my beer in my lap. But she was right. It *was* horrible. But in a way, that was Bernard's perculiar charm, if you can call it "charm." In a lot of ways he personified the raw, rugged brutality that is an everyday part of professional wrestling, but all too often is forgotten until someone is crippled. Bernard was a symbol of the old salt that goes, "nobody ever promised that wrestling professionally would be easy." Not by a longshot, and not when the Brute was wrestling.

Rest easy, Brute Bernard. You'll be missed. □

OFFI
WRESTLIN

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.



Magnum T.A.

TOP10

1—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
2—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec
3—HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA
4—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
5—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France
6—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX
7—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO
8—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX
9—BARRY WINDHAM
230, Sweetwater, TX
10—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA

TAG TEAMS

1—THE ROAD WARRIORS
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 567 pounds
2—IVAN KOLOFF & DON KERNODLE
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 485 pounds
3—STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE
No. 1 contenders for AWA tag team title
Combined weight: 479 pounds
4—DICK MURDOCH & ADRIAN ADONIS
WWF tag team champions
Combined weight: 521 pounds
5—CHAVO & HECTOR GUERRERO
U.S. tag team champions
Combined weight: 472 pounds
6—DENNIS CONDREY & BOBBY EATON
Mid-South tag team champions
Combined weight: 483 pounds
7—ICEMAN PARSONS & BUCK ZUMHOFE
World Class American tag team champions
Combined weight: 464 pounds
8—RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON
No. 1 contenders for Mid-South tag team title
Combined weight: 453 pounds
9—RON BASS & BLACK BART
Mid-Atlantic tag team champions
Combined weight: 546 pounds
10—RIP ROGERS & TED OATES
National tag team champions
Combined weight: 473 pounds

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
1—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX
2—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO
3—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE
4—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX
5—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
6—SCOTT McGHEE
220, Shipley, England
7—PISTOL PEZ WHATLEY
238, El Paso, TX
8—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX
9—COWBOY RON BASS
285, Pampa, TX
10—CARLOS COLON
238, Santa Isabel, Puerto Rico

AWA

World Champion:
RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec
1—MR. SAITO
247, Osaka, Japan
2—NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA
3—TONY ATLAS
247, Roanoke, VA
4—JUMBO TSURUTA
240, Tokyo, Japan
5—BRAD RHEINGANS
248, Appleton, MN
6—JIM BRUNZELL
225, Minneapolis, MN
7—BILLY ROBINSON
246, Manchester, England
8—GREG GAGNE
220, Robinsdale, MN
9—CURT HENNIG
235, Robinsdale, MN
10—STEVE O
226, Edina, MN

MOST POPULAR

1—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
2—HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA
3—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX
4—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec
5—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC
6—BILLY JACK
245, Portland, OR
7—BARRY WINDHAM
230, Sweetwater, TX
8—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France
9—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA
10—JIMMY VALIANT
251, New York, NY

MOST HATED

1—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX
2—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
345, Siberia, Russia
3—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
4—KEVIN SULLIVAN
235, Boston, MA
5—RODDY PIPER
231, Scotland
6—EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, KY
7—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX
8—DORY FUNK JR.
244, Amarillo, TX
9—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE
10—JOHN STUDD
364, Los Angeles, CA

CIAL
G RATINGS

For period ended September 26, 1984

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

WWF

Champion:
HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA

1—TITO SANTANA
245, Mission, TX
2—JOHN STUDD
364, Los Angeles, CA
3—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC
4—KAMALA
360, Uganda
5—JIMMY SNUKA
250, Fiji Islands
6—KEN PATERA
256, Portland, OR
7—GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA
8—PAUL ORNDORFF
253, Brandon, FL
9—JESSE VENTURA
270, Muscle Beach, CA
10—RODDY PIPER
231, Scotland

GEORGIA

1—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE
2—RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec
3—BRAD ARMSTRONG
223, Marietta, GA
4—BOB ARMSTRONG
242, Marietta, GA
5—TIM HORNER
235, Morristown, TN
6—TOMMY RICH
248, Hendersonville, TN
7—JERRY OATES
247, Columbus, GA
8—PORKCHOP CASH
249, Chicago, Il
9—OLE ANDERSON
256, Minneapolis, MN
10—THE ITALIAN STALLION
240, Naples, Italy

WORLD CLASS

1—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX
2—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX
3—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
4—MIKE VON ERICH
220, Denton, TX
5—CHRIS ADAMS
225, Stratford on Avon, England
6—KILLER KHAN
312, Mongolia
7—JAKE ROBERTS
243, Baton Rouge, LA
8—ICEMAN PARSONS
242, St. Louis, MO
9—THE MISSING LINK
273, parts unknown
10—KELLY KINISKI
242, Vancouver, BC

MID-ATLANTIC

1—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX
2—RON BASS
285, Pampa, TX
3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
4—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI
5—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
6—BARRY WINDHAM
230, Sweetwater, TX
7—JIMMY VALIANT
251, New York, NY
8—MIKE ROTUNDO
245, Syracuse, NY
9—ANGELO MOSCA JR.
234, Caledou, Ontario
10—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
310, Sweetwater, TX

FLORIDA

1—PEZ WHATLEY
238, El Paso, TX
2—SCOTT McGHEE
220, Shipley, England
3—BILLY JACK
245, Portland, OR
4—KEVIN SULLIVAN
235, Boston, MA
5—DORY FUNK JR.
244, Amarillo, TX
6—BUGSY McGRAW
245, New York, NY
7—MIKE DAVIS
232, Atlanta, GA
8—JIM NEIDHARDT
248, Calgary, Alberta
9—THE SAINT
242, Caracas, Venezuela
10—MIKE GRAHAM
232, Tampa, FL

MID-SOUTH

1—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA
2—TERRY TAYLOR
219, Vero Beach, FL
3—BUTCH REED
249, Kansas City, MO
4—STEVE WILLIAMS
295, Tulsa, OK
5—HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, New York, NY
6—HERCULES HERNANDEZ
275, Tampa, FL
7—BRICKHOUSE BROWN
225, Winter Haven, FL
8—EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET
234, South Wales
9—SONNY KING
256, Detroit, MI
10—ERNIE LADD
354, Houston, TX

MID-SOUTHERN

1—EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, TN
2—KING KONG BUNDY
420, Atlantic City, NJ
3—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
4—TOMMY RICH
248, Hendersonville, TN
5—RICK RUDE
233, Robinsdale, MN
6—RANDY SAVAGE
235, Sarasota, FL
7—LANNY POFFO
228, Sarasota, FL
8—MASAO ITO
247, Osaka, Japan
9—MID-SOUTHERN SPOILER
240, parts unknown
10—PHIL HICKERSON
230, Jackson, TN

NORTHWEST

1—RIP OLIVER
245, Tampa, FL
2—STAN STASIAK
268, Portland, OR
3—PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE
245, Minneapolis, MN
4—BRETT SAWYER
242, St. Petersburg, FL
5—MATT BORNE
240, Milwaukie, OR
6—TOM PRITCHARD
220, Houston, TX
7—KEVIN KELLY
265, Hollywood, CA
8—MIKE MILLER
260, Memphis, TN
9—MR. EBONY
240, parts unknown
10—BOBBY JAGGERS
265, Dunlap, KS

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Bubbling under: *The Wrestler's* Top 10 ratings may be the most respected listing in professional wrestling. Unlike the regional rankings, and the NWA, AWA, and WWF rankings, the Top 10 considers every wrestler active in the sport, and bases its rankings not only on won-loss record, but quality of opposition and inherent skill.

One example of the importance the wrestlers themselves place on our Top 10 is a remark from **Magnum T.A.**, who entered the survey for the first time in the January 1985 issue of our sister publication *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.*

"I guess this means I'm doing something right," T.A. said. "To be rated with men like **Ric Flair**, **Dusty Rhodes**, **Rick Martel**, and **Harley Race** is the biggest compliment I've ever received, even though I'm just number 10.

"I wonder where I was before that," he continued. "I mean, is there a number 11 or 12?"

There hasn't been in the past, but it's a good idea. From time to time "Ratings Analysis" will feature "The Second 10," a ranking of the 11th through 20th best wrestlers in the sport, based on the editorial staff's analysis of those wrestlers' won-loss records, quality of opposition, and inherent skill, the same criteria used to devise the Top 10.

Rick Steamboat

THE SECOND 10

11—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI
12—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
13—TITO SANTANA
245, Mission, TX
14—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
15—BRUISER BRODY
311, Albuquerque, NM
16—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris, Island, SC
17—NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA
18—TOMMY RICH
248, Hendersonville, TN
19—BILLY JACK
245, Portland, OR
20—MIKE ROTUNDO
245, Syracuse, NY

Ron Bass & Black Bart

Tag teams: This month's changes in the tag team ratings were triggered by **Ronnie Garvin** and **Jerry Oates'** loss of the National tag team championship to **Rip Rogers** and **Ted Oates**, Georgia's **Hollywood Blonds**. The new champions move into the ratings at the number 10 slot, and **Ron Bass** and **Black Bart**, the Mid-Atlantic tag team champions, move up to number nine in the ratings.

Another change sees last month's sixth-rated team, **Iceman Parsons** and **Buck Zumhofe**, flip-flop with last month's number seven team, **Dennis Condrey** and **Bobby Eaton**, **The Midnight Express**. The change was prompted by the relative inactivity of Parsons and Zumhofe, the World Class American tag team titleholders.

In and out: **Superstar Graham** has been lifted from the Florida ratings after disappearing from the area after being injured in a dispute with **Kevin Sullivan** during a televised match. Interestingly, Sullivan moves into Graham's number four slot in the Florida ratings.

Nikolai Volkoff's singing of the Russian national anthem in the ring during recent WWF telecasts is enough to place him into the Most Hated ratings. Combine that with dastardly tactics used in recent victories, Volkoff moves right into the number two position.

Ted DiBiase leaves the Mid-South ratings, as his Georgia area feuds with with **Brad Armstrong** and **Ronnie Garvin** intensify.

And welcome back to **Stan Stasiak**. The former WWF champion has come out of retirement again, prompted by a feud with Pacific Northwest champion **Rip "The Crippler" Oliver**. Stasiak is another vaulter in the ratings this month, moving into the number two spot after a controversial loss to Oliver in which the champion won with a kick to the groin.

The address for mail: We welcome comments and questions on our ratings system and our ratings analysis. Send all letters to: "Ratings Analysis c/o *The Wrestler*, Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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"GAINS IN HEIGHT and weight as a result of experiments on boys from 12 to 17." Studies in Physical Development and Posture. (From U.S. Public Health Bulletin.)

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

the world what these wrestlers can do.

I read Bill Apter's "What's Happening" column in the November 1984 issue of *The Wrestler,* and I think that these fans who are calling WTBS to complain are overreacting. Personally, I'd rather see Brutus Beefcake than Bob Roop, Paul Orndorff than Tommy Rich, Roddy Piper than Ted DiBiase, and Sgt. Slaughter than Brad Armstrong.

Sure, Gordon Solie is an excellent commentator, but let's not overlook the talents of "Mean" Gene Okerlund—he's got a style all his own!

The WWF is appearing on more and more television stations each month, and I for one think it's great!

BRYAN GETTLER
Hartford, CT

Reader Sheila Martin speculates that Billy Jack's full-nelson victory over Superstar Graham influenced Graham to turn against Kevin Sullivan.

BILLY'S REVENGE!

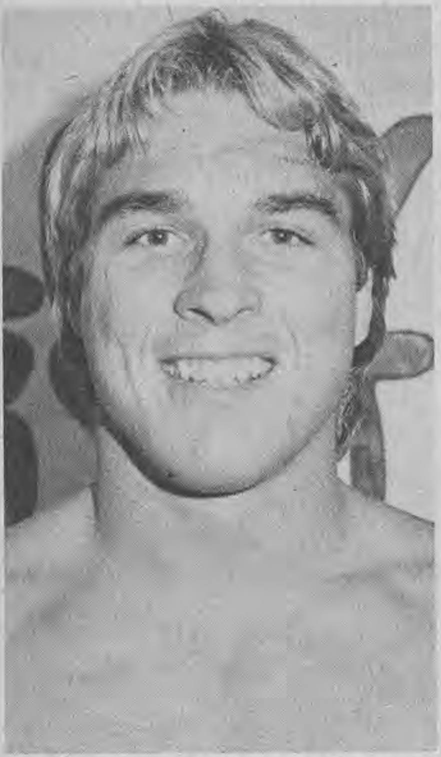
I want to thank *The Wrestler* for the excellent coverage of the Billy Jack-Superstar Graham feud in its November 1984 issue ("The $50,000 Full-Nelson Challenge Match: Billy Jack Gets Bloody Revenge Against Superstar Graham").

It seems that Billy Jack's campaign against Graham has done more than net him a good payday—it seems to

have made Graham think a little bit about where he stands in the wrestling world, and in relation to that Florida scum, Kevin Sullivan. It's good to see that Graham has joined forces in the fight *against* Sullivan and his demonic ways.

Billy Graham, you've been on the wrong side of wrestling for too long. Billy Jack showed you where the right side is at, and now you've taken up the fight against Sullivan. Congratulations. It's good to see you where you are today.

SHEILA MARTIN
Tampa, FL



When Terry gets a little more ring experience, he is going to be "awesome," predicts Shawn Moley.

IT'S ABOUT TIME

All I can say is that it's about time someone recognized the abilities of Terry Taylor ("Spotlight On Terry Taylor," November 1984).

Too many fans of wrestling concentrate on the so-called "veterans" of the sport, men who seem to have been wrestling for 50 years or more.

Me, I like to follow the young, up-and-coming stars of tomorrow. And that's why I like Terry Taylor. This is a man with the abilities to go all the way. Once he gets a few more years

(Continued on page 50)

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 49)

of experience under his belt, he's going to be absolutely awesome. He's already proven himself against such opponents as Nikolai Volkoff and Krusher Khrushchev.

You're doing great, Terry, keep up the good work! And thank you, editors of *The Wrestler*, for spotlighting this truly deserving young star.

SHAWN MOLEY
Baton Rouge, LA

MARTIAL ARTS ARE FINE

I disagree with the letter by Robert Horne in the November issue of *The Wrestler.*

Kabuki catches Kamala with a back karate kick. Reader Joey Bwaynes feels martial arts maneuvers are acceptable in wrestling.

He says that he's upset by the use of martial arts in wrestling. He says that martial arts are too dangerous, that they can ruin a man's face or—worse yet—his career.

Listen, Robert, nobody ever promised that professional wrestling would be easy. It's pure hell inside that ring, and an elbowsmash to the face by Road Warrior Animal can be just as devastating as a back karate kick to the stomach by The Great Kabuki.

If you ask me, martial arts inside the wrestling ring are just fine. If a wrestler knows that he's going to have to contend with karate kicks and thrusts, he'll have to be that

(Continued on page 52)

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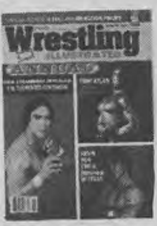

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 50)

much more alert and defensive. In that way, it makes the martial artist's opponent wrestle that much better.

Stop your whining, Robert. Martial arts are in wrestling to stay.

JOEY BWAYNES
Los Angeles

FANS SHOULD STAY FANS

An open letter to all wrestling fans who can't keep their hands off wrestlers:

I have been attending wrestling matches for well over three years, and never before have I seen the actions taken by fans as I've seen in the last couple of months. What I am saying is that there are fans who actually take it upon themselves to jump wrestlers from behind.

Here are a few examples of what I'm talking about:

One night, "Hacksaw" Butch Reed was struck by a ringside fan. On another occasion, Krusher Khrushchev was standing in the ring awaiting his opponent when a fan ran in and attacked him from behind. I've also seen Jimmy Cornette drenched with beer by a fan.

I don't understand why these people can't just sit down and watch a match. A standing ovation every so often is fine, but please, *please,* leave the wrestlers alone.

If you would have faith in your favorite wrestler you would leave the fighting to him. After all, he's the one getting paid for fighting, not you.

If you feel the need to fight, join the Army. They would be more than glad to have you. Or become a wrestler. Then you would have every chance to fight who you would like, in the ring, one on one, face to face. Your type is certainly not wanted in the arenas, especially by me. If we could get rid of your type of fan, wrestling would really live up to its name: "King of Sports."

MYNDI SAVOY
Baton Rouge, LA ☐

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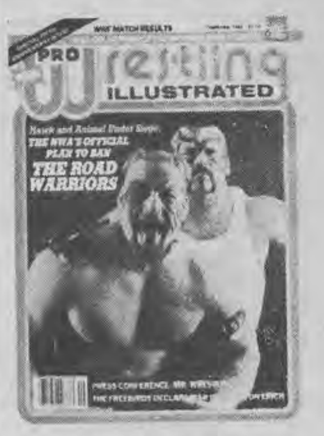

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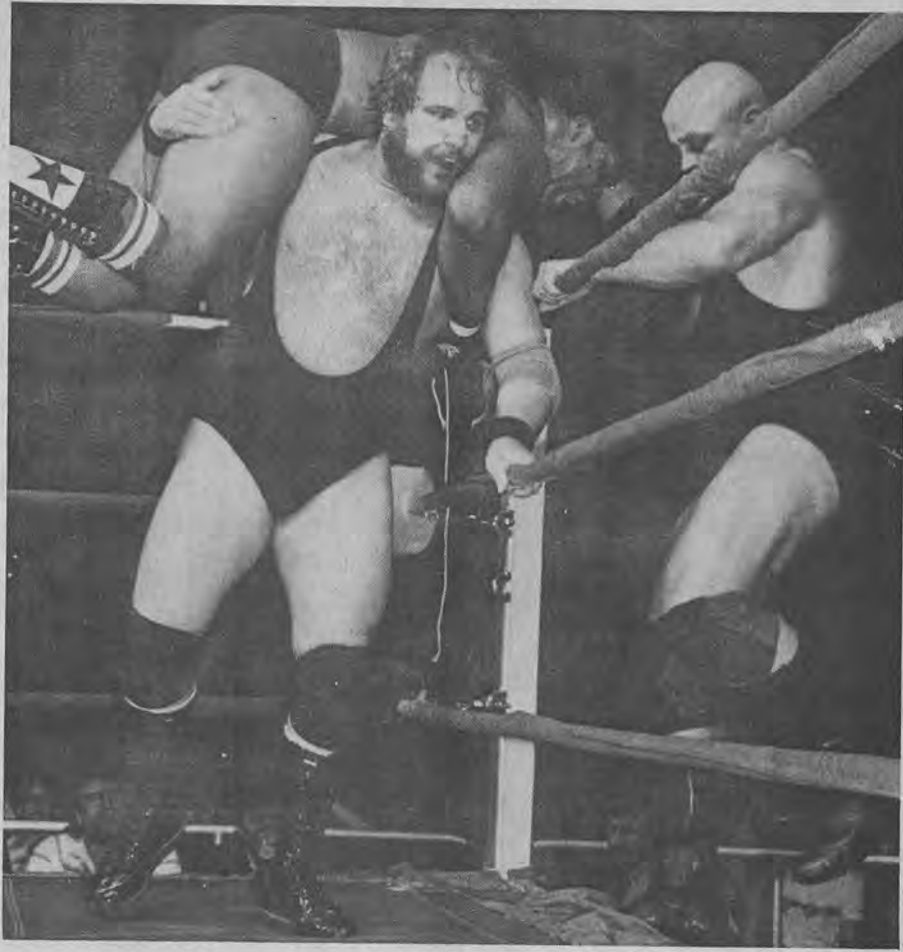
DON KERNODLE

(Continued from page 31)



Don Kernodle brings Pez Whatley over to his corner where Ivan Koloff will take a free shot. Kernodle has to decide whether he should be loyal to his Russian partner or his country.

tore me apart."

Kernodle was referring to his tag team partner, Ivan Koloff. Lately, the pair have been joined by Koloff's nephew, Nikita Koloff. Ivan and Kernodle are the current NWA tag team champions.

"It wasn't the first time somebody said I made them sick," Kernodle said with great difficulty. "At times it seems like I'm getting calls from everyone I've ever met. When I carry the Soviet flag into the ring, when Koloff calls me an honorary Russian, when his nephew, Nikita, calls me a comrade, it enrages the people who know me. Some of them have said they hate me."

The reporter, sodden with liquor and exhaustion, suddenly understood the reason behind the whole evening. Kernodle was looking for someone to tell him he wasn't evil for teaming with Koloff and saying nothing when the Russian extolls his homeland. The reporter didn't dislike Kernodle and certainly didn't want to get him angry. Trying to clear his brain, the reporter searched for something neutral to say.

"You can't argue with success," the reporter began, "and you and Koloff are champions. Whatever makes it work for the two of you is all that matters. After all, you haven't given Koloff any state secrets."

"But I'm an American," Kernodle replied. The reporter got the sinking feeling that Kernodle wanted someone to justify him. This was going to take another drink at least. He summoned the waitress and ordered a dry Rob Roy, specifying no bitters.

"Koloff makes me stand there," Kernodle continued, "while he runs down my country, the country where both of us are making a damn good living. There have been times I wanted to shut him up, to say that this is a great country. But that might have ruined our partnership. I've waited all my life for a tag team partner as good as Koloff. With him, there's no telling how successful I can be. I paid my dues in this business. I've earned the right to be a champion. Just because the guy is a little off the wall about Russia, that's no reason to ruin the best thing that's ever come into my life."

"Well," said the reporter, sipping his drink and realizing he should have ordered coffee, "life is a series of compromises. If you ever find the perfect situation, you'll be the first."

"But there are some things you can't compromise!" Kernodle shouted, startling both the waitress and bartender. "You compromise some things and you compromise your manhood. When I don't say anything when Koloff talks about Russia, I'm spitting on what's best about this country. Aren't I?"

"Not necessarily," the reporter replied, knowing he was making a big mistake as he drained his glass. "This country can survive Koloff's insults and your silence. What makes this country great is that Koloff can say whatever he wants. If someone shut him up, *that* would be spitting on what's best about this country. America's principles don't need your defense. Every time Koloff opens his mouth and doesn't get arrested, he's proving America's greatness."

Kernodle stood up to leave. Before going, he said, "But there comes a time in every man's life when he's got to make a statement. Maybe my time is coming." □

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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)

ropes and delivered a high backdrop. He then straddled Valiant's chest and began posing again. As the fans booed, Valiant hooked his legs under Idol's arms and rolled him over for the victory.

As Valiant left the ring, Idol offered him $5,000 to return to the ring, but Valiant was satisifed with the cheers of the fans and continued walking to the dressing room.

In other bouts, Dusty Rhodes won a round-robin tournament with Stan Hansen and Masked Superstar to earn a title shot with Ric Flair . . . Ron Garvin beat Jake Roberts in a cage match . . . The Hollywood Blonds beat Tony Atlas and Tim Horner . . . Bob Armstrong defeated Ted DiBiase in a strap match . . . Brad Armstrong defeated Paul Ellering . . . Jerry Oates defeated The Italian Stallion.

Tulsa, Oklahoma *(Correspondent*—Travis Robinson): "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes came to Tulsa to team with Hacksaw Jim Duggan against Hercules Hernandez and Butch Reed in a bunkhouse match. The fan favorites left without a victory, however, thanks to outside interference by manager Jim Cornette.

Dusty, very experienced in this sort of match, started out biting Reed's forehead. Reed returned the punishment, however, spitting out blood when he was finished chewing on Rhodes' head.

As Reed tagged Hernandez, Rhodes tagged Duggan. Hernandez climbed to the top rope to jump Duggan, but Rhodes had thrown Duggan a length of rope, which Duggan wrapped around Hernandez's neck. He whipped Hernandez off the top rope and onto the canvas. Reed and Rhodes entered the ring at this point, and all four men began to

Though he is cut, Butch Reed is happy with the fact that Dusty Rhodes is cut even worse. Reed teamed with Hercules Hernandez against Rhodes and Hacksaw Duggan.

brawl.

Duggan was knocked out of the ring, and Cornette was on the spot with a handful of medicated powder. He blinded Duggan with the powder while Hernandez and Reed double-teamed Rhodes and rode that momentum to a victory.

In other bouts, Ric Flair drew with Kerry Von Erich . . . Magnum T.A. defeated Buddy Landell . . . The Fantastics beat The Midnight Express . . . Terry Taylor beat Krusher Khrushchev . . . Sonny King beat Ernie Ladd . . . Steve Williams beat Art Crews.

Waco, Texas *(Correspondent—Bill Anshular)*: A sellout crowd at the Convention Center watched a tremendously fierce battle as the AWA World tag team champions, The Road Warriors, wrestled to a double-disqualification against Butch Miller and Luke Williams, The Kiwi Sheepherders.

The referee had no chance of controlling the action of this match. The four were brawling even before the opening bell rang. To the fans, it seemed like the only rule was that there were no rules.

Both teams used the ringside chairs and announcer's table as weapons. At one point, all four men were outside the ring. Hawk smashed Williams' head repeatedly into the base of the ringpost while Animal pounded Miller on the opposite end of the ring.

None of the four wrestlers would pay any attention to the referee's orders, so the official was forced to call for the bell, ending the bout. That didn't stop the Warriors, however, who continued to beat the Sheepherders all the way back to the dressing room area.

In other bouts, Killer Brooks defeated Manny Fernandez . . . Chicky Starr beat Eric Embry . . . Tony Falk beat Dan Greer . . . Al Madril defeated Juan Reynosa . . . Steve Dupree beat Bo Beck. ☐

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

pain he's been causing, well, then it's all worth it."

***

Q: "I would like to ask Road Warrior Animal a question: Does it bother you that Hawk's name is always written or said before yours? You're a great wrestler and I think you deserve more credit."—Susie Gentry, Asheville, NC

Road Warrior Animal could care less that his name is always mentioned after his partner Animal's.

A: "I don't care," Animal said. "I don't care if they say my name first, last, or if they forget to say it at all. There are only two names that matter, one is The Road Warriors, and the other is AWA World tag team champions. That's all I have to say."

***

Q: "I have a question for Jerry Lawler: I know you wrestled on the 'Lord of the Rings' wrestling card in Miami in June, and I wondered if you think you might be wrestling in Florida on a regular basis. If so, would you like a shot at Ric Flair's NWA World title?"

A: "I loved wrestling in Florida," Lawler said. "The weather, the fans, the competition, it was all great. It's a classy place, and I'm a classy guy. There are a lot of things going on in Florida that the King of Wrestling would like to get involved in, like the fight against Kevin Sullivan and this Satanism thing. It's just ridiculous. But I have a commitment to the people of the Mid-Southern area, a commitment that I have to honor. Like I said, I'm a classy guy."

***

Q: "My question is for Iceman Parsons: When is Ric Flair going to stop ducking you and give you a title shot? You're the best!"—Juanita Reyndosa, San Antonio, TX

A: "That's right," Parsons replied. "Ric Flair has been duckin' the Iceman. He's been runnin' faster than melted ice cream on a sunny day in July. He knows that the Iceman would cool him off for good. I'm not in no hurry. I'll just wait it out until he can't run anymore, and then he'll be so tired that he'll just hand me that strap and walk out of the ring with his head hanging lower than a flag at half-mast."

Iceman Parsons claims NWA World champion Ric Flair is a coward and is ducking his challenge.

Q: "My question is for Terry Taylor: Would you ever wrestle your friend Magnum T.A. for the North American title?—Fern Fitzpatrick, Mobile, AL

***

A: "In a second," Taylor said. "Friendships are one thing, but success is another. If Mid-South Wrestling chose me as the number one contender, I'd be right there across the ring from the champ, no matter who he is— friend, enemy, or stranger. And I'll tell you, I think that match would be the most exciting match the fans would ever see. □

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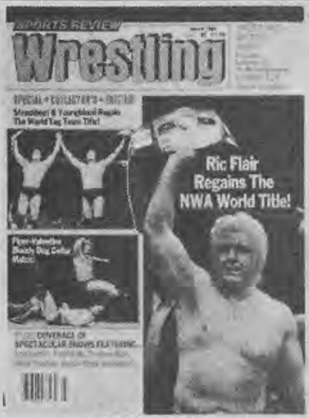

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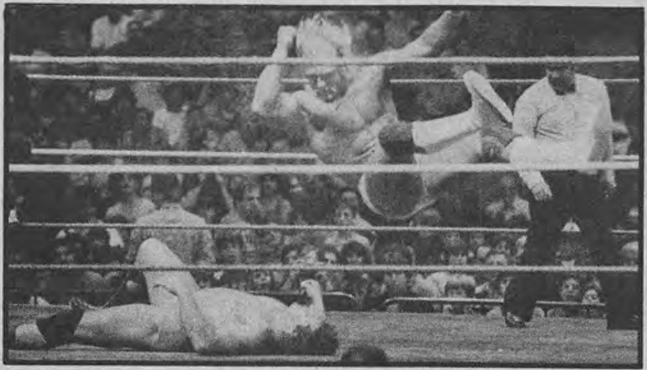

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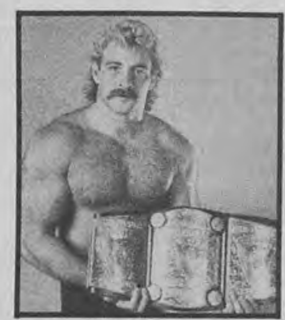

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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)

Gary Sabaugh scores a victory over "Crazy" Luke Graham. Sabaugh, born in Naples, Italy, would like to be known simply as "The Italian Stallion."

"I could have waited for the 1984 Olympics to roll around, but even then, that's a lot of waiting for success that says 'maybe.'

"I had become a fan of professional wrestling in my early teens, and I looked up to these men who were able to be successful in a sport where success sure doesn't come easy. It looked like a good challenge for me."

Sabaugh began his professional training under the auspices of Gene Anderson. And after several years of hard work, what Gary terms "the hardest work of my life," he was ready for his professional debut in February 1984.

"I wrestled Barry Orton and I won, but I'll tell you something that probably won't be a surprise—I was terrified! The first time you step into that ring is an experience you never forget for the rest of your life."

Sabaugh is better known to wrestling fans as "The Italian Stallion." "I wanted something to remind me of where I came from," Gary said. "After all, when I first came to Detroit as a little kid, it was wrestling that gave me a way to fit in, a way to make it in a strange city among a lot of faces I'd never seen before.

"I kind of feel the same way about the pro ranks. When I looked across that ring and saw Barry Orton last February—boy, it was like I was eight years old all over again. There was fear and uncertainty just like when I came with my family from Naples. So my name, 'The Italian Stallion,' is a reminder not only of where I came from, but a constant reminder of how much I owe to wrestling."

Currently, The Italian Stallion is working under the tutelage of Ole Anderson.

"This kid has got a bright future," Ole told *The Wrestler*. "I know the kind of training that my brother Gene can put a guy through. I know what kind of regimen he uses for basic training, and I think that I'll be able to build upon those basics and—with the Stallion's own hard work—be able to mold this kid into a heck of a wrestler."

Keep an eye on The Italian Stallion. Like Ole says, he's going to be a heck of a wrestler. A future champion? We wouldn't be surprised. ☐

WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

the distinction of having the shortest Southern heavyweight title reign: three days. He defeated **Pistol Pez Whatley** for the belt on September 19 in Fort Lauderdale, but Whatley came back on the 22nd in Miami to regain the championship. That match in Miami was one of the shortest title matches in Florida history, lasting only a few seconds. **Dusty Rhodes** had accompanied Whatley to the ring, and Sullivan, not pleased by that fact, yelled at Dusty for several minutes. His yelling continued after the bell sounded to start of the match. Whatley slipped behind Sullivan, rolled him into a small package, and scored the pinfall.

Two months ago, this column wrote about the WWF's assumption of WTBS television time on *World Championship Wrestling.* I printed a letter from a fan in Buffalo, New York, who was upset at the lack of variety of televised wrestling. Well, this month I'm happy to report that variety lives—at least in the New York area. Wrestling fans in the Northeast can watch *four* different wrestling programs featuring four different areas of the country on Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.: *Championship Wrestling From Georgia* on WTBS at 9 a.m. (featuring **Gordon Solie** and **Ole Anderson** and the Georgia area stars), televised WWF wrestling on WOR at 10 a.m. (featuring WWF area stars), *Pro Wrestling USA* on WPIX at 11 a.m. (featuring top NWA and AWA stars such as **Ric Flair, Rick Martel, The Road Warriors, Jerry Lawler, and Tommy Rich**), and *Lo Mejor En Lucha Libre,* a Spanish language program on WXTV (featuring Mid-Atlantic area stars). *Pro Wrestling USA*, by the way, is the first major wrestling program to recognize both the NWA and AWA World champions. We will be keeping you informed of all major developments with regard to this program in upcoming issues of *The Wrestler* and our sister publications.

At the recent NWA convention in Las Vegas, Japan's **Shohei "Giant" Baba** and Georgia's **Fred**

Shoehei "Giant" Baba (left) and Fred Ward (center), the newest elected officers of the NWA, pose with NWA President Bob Geigel.

Ward were elected officers of the NWA . . . **Pierre LeFebvre, Frenchy Martin, Buzz Sawyer,** and **Vinnie Valentino** are all headed to the North Dakota area . . . **Brett "Hacksaw" Sawyer** is a busy man these days: He holds a portion of both the Pacific Northwest tag team title (with **Tom Pritchard**) and the Southwest tag team title (with **Chicky Starr**)!

Fans may have to start rethinking their opinions of **Gary Hart**. During a recent match in Ft. Worth between the Hart-advised **Chris Adams** and NWA World champion **Ric Flair**, Adams found himself the victim of a pinfall. At one time, I would have expected Hart to charge the ring and attack Flair after the decision, but instead Hart took a reasoned philosophical approach to the loss: He simply consoled Adams, saying "You can't win them all," and returned to the dressing room area. Is this the dawning of a completely new Gary Hart?

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! □

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KERRY VON ERICH

(Continued from page 35)

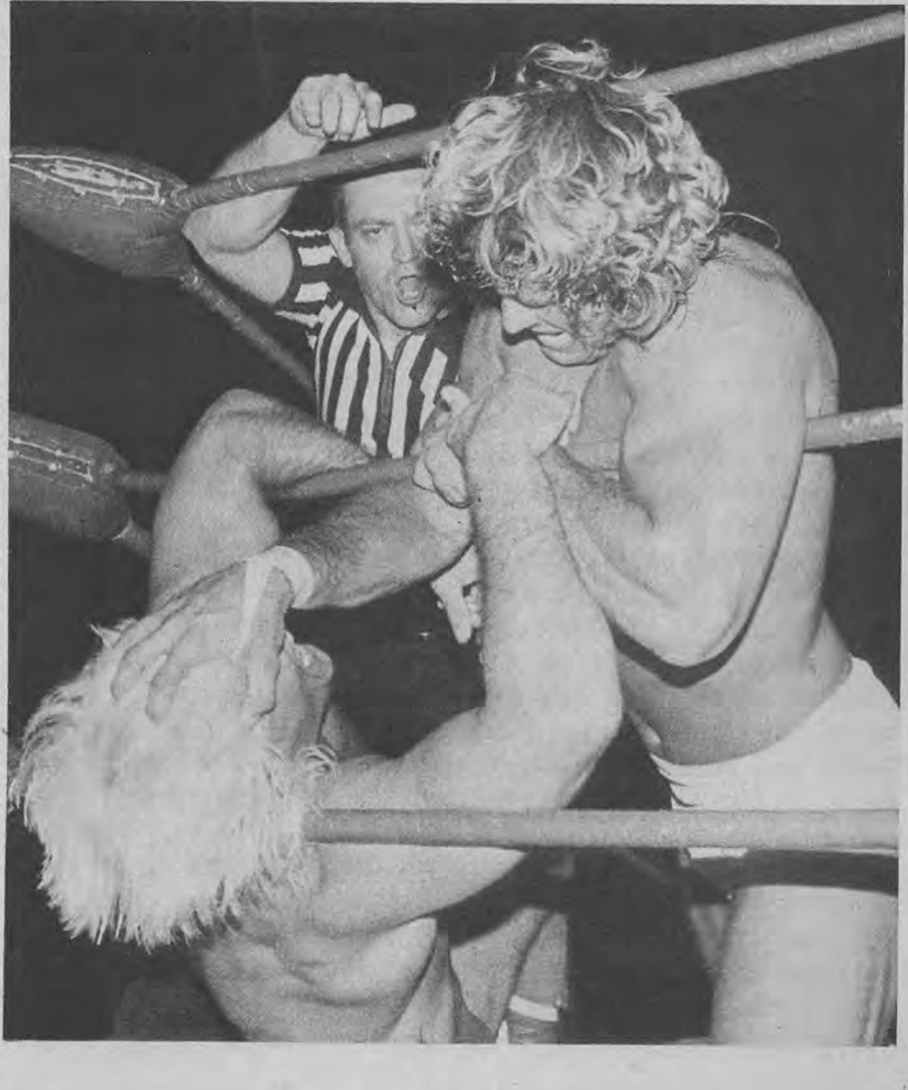
Both wrestlers' strength is sapped as Ric Flair struggles to free himself from Von Erich's abdominal stretch (above). Von Erich risks disqualification as he applies his clawhold while on the ropes (below).

with brothers Kevin and Mike. Obviously, he cannot turn down rematches with Flair when they are offered.

Since losing the NWA World title to Ric Flair on May 24 in Japan, Kerry Von Erich has been the recipient of many title rematches. And if it is true that any man can beat any other man on any given night, it is also true that Kerry Von Erich has been refining his style against Ric Flair—and the only thing keeping the NWA belt around Flair's waist is the champion's extensive experience in title defenses . . . and maybe just a little bit of luck.

Speaking with Kerry Von Erich after his match with Flair in St. Louis, one gets the impression that the champion's luck is about to run out.

"Sometimes I ask myself what I have to do to beat this guy," Von Erich said. "Let me tell you some-



thing: Flair is an *intense* wrestler. I respect him greatly. And when I wrestle him in one more match, I learn one more tiny scrap of strategy to use against him—like with the figure-four incident I mentioned earlier. I used his own weapon against him, and the element of surprise worked in my favor.

"Something else about Flair is the fact that he has tremendous stamina," Von Erich continued. "I caught him in the abdominal stretch tonight, and I pulled like mad on the hold until I couldn't pull any more. I don't think Flair can match me for raw strength, but Flair was fighting me every inch of the way, and he expended so much energy trying to prevent me from maintaining the hold on him that in turn it cost *me* that much more energy trying to counter his defense.

"Probably the most frustrating thing about wrestling Flair is that I tend to lose my temper pretty easily," Von Erich said. "I'll reach the point in the match where I feel I should already have scored a pinfall or a submission, and Flair just keeps coming on strong. It's frustrating, and I wind up risking disqualification by attacking Flair out of the ring, or refusing to break a hold in the ropes, or, like tonight, I got the claw on Flair in the corner of the ring and I wouldn't let go. The referee would have had every right to disqualify me on the spot. I was lucky he didn't.

"But I know that as a former NWA champion, I'm right up there in the consideration for opponents for title shots," Von Erich said, "and that if I don't succeed tonight, there's another title shot right around the corner. I can feel victory right around the corner. I can feel that the NWA title is within my grasp. And sooner or later, Flair will fall. It's inevitable.

"I've beaten him in the past," Von Erich said, "and I'm certain I can do it again. Flair has been lucky up until now, but his luck is running out. I'll be bringing the NWA title back home to Texas very soon, back home to my family, and to the fans who support us so strongly. Flair's days are numbered. It's only a matter of time." □

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- **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

- **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

- **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!
- **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A Witch uses ancient methods to make time stand still or to run it backward or forward! To make your face look young or old at will, all you need is some morning dew, and the instructions on page 27. You can fly through time and space, on astral wings, go anywhere, do anything, with the simple method on page 126. You can visit a friend, look in on an acquaintance and see what he is doing—even appear in someone's dreams, and convince that person to do whatever you wish!
- **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

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Witchcraft can make you rich, even in a ghetto! You should never have to worry about the rent, or where the next dollar is coming from, never have to apologize to a boss! No matter how poor you are now, THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT can bring you a life filled to the brim with pleasure, wealth, and all the glittering luxuries of the world! To get your copy of this amazing Witch Book, simply fill out and mail the no-risk coupon!

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MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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VITAL NOTE

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Yes, now, with the GAIN Plan to help, it's so easy, so pleasant to add pounds and inches of firm, attractive flesh . . . so fulfilling to feel better, stronger, more vital and alive! But don't take our word for it. Prove it to yourself at our risk!

If you sincerely want to gain weight, and to look better and feel better as a result,

HERE IS OUR OFFER . . .

We honestly believe the GAIN Plan to be the finest and most effective product of its type sold anywhere in the world today, and to prove our confidence, we are backing that statement up with this honest, straightforward offer . . .

Try the fabulous new GAIN Plan in your own home at our risk. Subject it to any test you like. Weigh yourself before you start. Weigh yourself later. If you haven't started to see substantial weight gain within 7 days, and if you don't feel better and look better as a result, or, if you are not completely satisfied for any reason, PAY NOTHING! It's just as simple as that.

If you are in doubt . . . even if you think nothing can possibly help you, for the sake of your appearance, and your happiness, at least try it! If the GAIN Plan works the way we know it will, you'll agree it is worth the few dollars it cost.

On the other hand, if it doesn't work the way you expected, it costs you nothing, and a least you have had the satisfaction of trying it at our expense.

What could be fairer than that? The next move is up to you. Once and for all, determine to do something about your underweight! We know you'll be happy you did.

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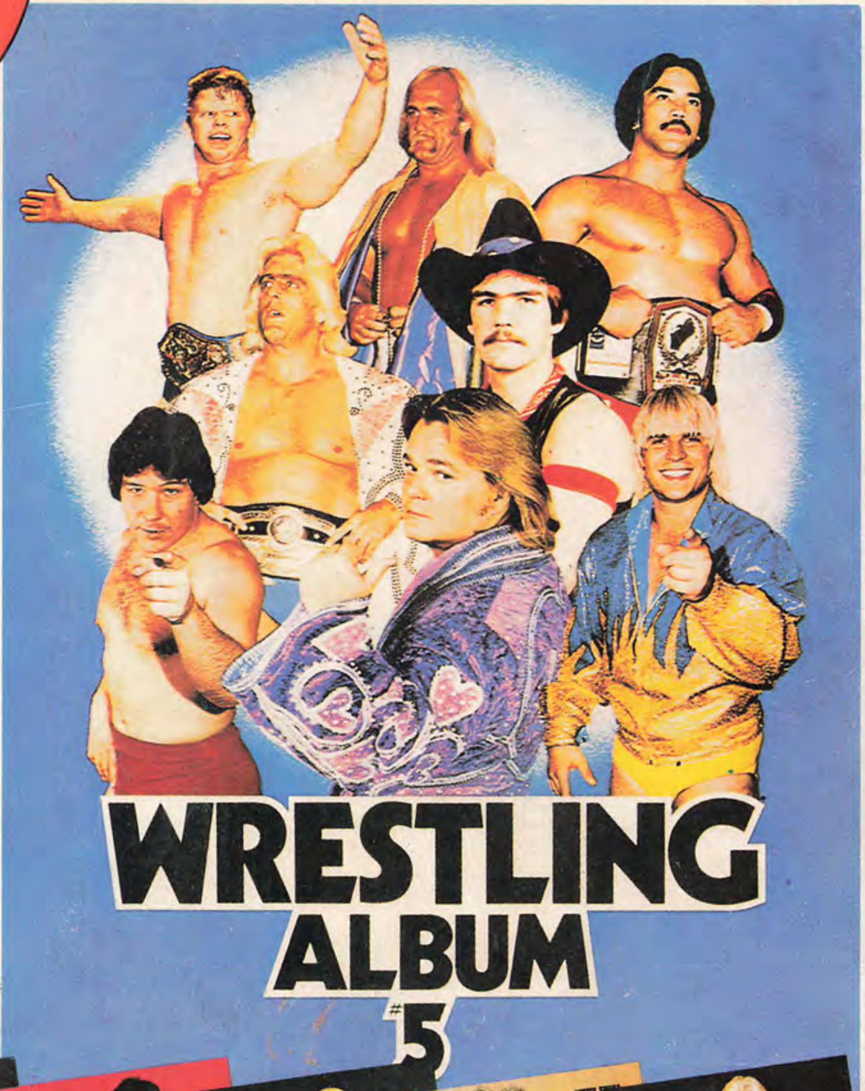
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